

# The Social Science Bulletin

A REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AT MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLEGE

January-February, 1951

Vol. IV, No. 3

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Published by

The Social Science Research Center

State College, Miss.

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE:

## A Survey

by

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Note: This paper was read on January 9, 1951, as the fifth in a series of lectures presented by the history staff of Mississippi State College for the students and faculty of the School of Agriculture. The lecture series was arranged by the Mississippi State College Student Section of the American Farm Economics Association.

In Mississippi, as perhaps in few other states, even a brief survey of the agricultural past should include a review of the farming practices of the Indians. In the first place, the Choctaws who occupied most of the area and who outnumbered all other tribes within the present boundaries of the State, were "preeminently the agriculturalists of the Southern Indians."<sup>1</sup> Secondly, the Mississippi Indians passed along to the early white settlers a number of native crops which the aborigines had domesticated and had brought under cultivation in order to produce greater yields. Perhaps the major contribution of this kind was maize, or corn, which was the principal crop among the Indians. In addition to many wild berries, fruits, and nuts which the Indians gathered for food, they had learned to cultivate red and black beans, round and oblong pumpkins, two varieties of sweet potatoes, squash, gourds, water-melons, sunflowers, and tobacco.<sup>2</sup> Finally, there is a possibility that the Indians also taught the early white settlers some techniques of cultivation, curing, and storage of agricultural products, but it is logical that methods of the white settlers were generally superior to those of the natives. The Indians used no domesticated animals to toil for them, and European farming implements were more advanced in design than the crude hoes made of a large shell or of a shoulder blade of a bison and other comparable tools used by the aborigines.<sup>3</sup>

Agriculture in the period of French settlement and occupancy (1699-1763) might appropriately be eliminated from consideration. In the Natchez Region the earliest French settlers made some attempts to raise sugar cane, indigo, and cotton. After a few years of French occupation, however, friction with Indians and other factors caused the French settlers in Mississippi to diminish almost to the vanishing point. Few if any export crops were grown, and subsistence farming prevailed until after the French and Indian War, when France surrendered to England control of the eastern part of the lower Mississippi valley.<sup>4</sup>

English jurisdiction over the area lasted only a few years (1763-1779), but during that time tremendous impetus was given to agriculture in southeastern Mississippi, where the white population multiplied because of the relative ease with which that part of the west could be reached, the liberal English land grants, and the Indian cessions or treaties by which the whites secured the right to settle in the coastal and Natchez regions. Anglo-American settlers from the English colonies on the seaboard, and other immigrants from England, Ireland, and the British West Indies, transplanted, as far as soil and climate would permit, the agricultural methods and crops with which they were already familiar. Tobacco and indigo soon became the chief export crops. The settlers also produced for domestic use ample supplies of corn, wheat, oats, rice, potatoes, cotton, flax, medicinal herbs, meat, and fruit.<sup>5</sup>

During the American Revolution the people who lived in present-day Mississippi were far removed from the scenes of important military action, and the economy of

<sup>1</sup> Hodge, Frederick Webb, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin No. 30, 2 vols., Washington, 1907), I, 288.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 25-26, 790-791; McLemore, Richard Aubrey, and McLemore, Nannie Pitts, Mississippi Through Four Centuries (Chicago, 1949), 28; Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State (Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, New York, 1938), 51. The Indians usually mixed tobacco weed with aromatic sumac or sweetgum for a more mellow and delightful taste.

<sup>3</sup> Hodge, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, I, 25-27; Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 51.

<sup>4</sup> Claiborne, J.F.H., Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State (1 vol., Jackson, Miss., 1880), I, 89-91.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 115; Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 94.

of the region was little affected by the war. A change in political authority did occur, however, when Spain entered the conflict against England and captured the British posts in the lower Mississippi valley and along the gulf coast. When the United States became independent, it claimed the Natchez Region, the most densely settled and most highly developed area in present-day Mississippi, but the Spaniards continued to man the forts and to exercise civil jurisdiction from 1779 until 1798.

During the first half of the nineteen-year period of Spanish dominion, the farmers and other residents of the Mississippi region fared quite well. Although her policies were not always consistent, Spain at first hoped to win the loyalty of the settlers in the Old Southwest and to curb eventually the westward extension of the United States. In the Natchez Region, during the 1780's Spanish efforts to win allegiance of the settlers was manifested in her liberal land policy and more particularly in her offer to buy at attractive prices all tobacco produced. When preparing the product for market, some farmers used very heavy sticks for cores of the "carrots" into which the tobacco leaves were rolled. Many Mississippi farmers, anxious to grab a fast peso, were not averse to bribing the Spanish officials who graded the tobacco, and the government buyers were no less anxious to secure through these illegal payments a supplement to their salary.<sup>6</sup> These market conditions, highly favorable to farmers and government buyers alike, naturally accelerated development of tobacco as the principal staple crop of the region. The planters bought more slaves and increased otherwise their productive potential. The settlers continued to produce also the usual variety of crops for domestic use. About 1790, however, the Spanish Government began to buy the superior tobacco of the Kentucky and Tennessee region and suddenly stopped its purchases of the Natchez crop.

The rather logical result of the collapse of the tobacco market was revival of indigo production, the secondary staple crop for the past generation. Except for the tender care required by the young plants indigo cultivation was relatively easy, and conversion from tobacco was none too difficult. The labor, land, and climate requirements of the two crops were similar. The processing of indigo was the most undesirable feature of its production:

Before going to seed it was cut with a reap hook, tied in bundles, and thrown into steeping vats built of heavy planks above the ground. The steeping vats drained into other vats, called beaters, in which the liquid was churned. The sun supplied the heat to hasten the fermentation and decay. When the grain or coloring matter separated and settled to the bottom, it was shoveled with wooden scoops into draining boxes lined with canvas, dried in molds, cut into cubes, seasoned, and packed for shipping. The deeply colored product was the most valued, though a light blue shade called "floton" was produced in large quantities. The whole task of raising and processing it...was arduous and unpleasant work...the odor arising from the putrid weed thrown from the vats was almost unbearable. The drainings into nearby streams from these refuse accumulations killed the fish, and the entire process of cultivation and manufacturing produced myriads of flies....<sup>7</sup>

Nevertheless, indigo offered the best solution to the quest for a money crop. Because of unforeseen circumstances this choice served only temporarily. In 1795, only five years after loss of the tobacco market, insects proved so destructive that indigo had to be abandoned.<sup>8</sup> With no desirable staple crop in prospect, the general outlook appeared rather hopeless, and an almost wholly self-sustaining farm economy seemed the only choice for Mississippi farmers. Almost at once, however, cotton production offered a welcome solution to the dilemma.

Cotton was not a new product in Mississippi. Some plants had been seen in a Natchez garden as early as 1722, and small quantities for domestic use had been grown in the area throughout the rest of the eighteenth century, but it had not been produced in large amounts because of the difficulties of separating the lint from the seed.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 139-140; McLemore and McLemore, Mississippi Through Four Centuries, 79-80; Lowry, Robert, and McCardle, William H., A History of Mississippi (Jackson, Miss., 1891), 134.

<sup>7</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 140; Rowland, Dunbar, History of Mississippi: the Heart of the South (4 vols., Chicago-Jackson, 1925), I, 308; Fant, Mabel B., and Fant, John C., History of Mississippi (n. p., 1920), 81; Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 94; Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi, 134.

<sup>8</sup> Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 95.

<sup>9</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 140; Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi, 134.

<sup>10</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 142; Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi, 135.

Within a few months after the forced abandonment of indigo the Natchez Region had its first version of the cotton gin. From a rough sketch drawn by a man who had seen Whitney's invention, a slave mechanic constructed that first Mississippi gin.<sup>11</sup> In the following year, 1796, David Greenleaf, an ingenious mechanic, began in the Natchez region the construction of gin-stands as a commercial enterprise.<sup>12</sup> These earliest gins were crude affairs and each processed but a few hundred pounds of seed cotton per day. However, by the use of even these elementary devices a considerable reduction in the greatest "bottleneck" in cotton production had been made, and continuing improvements in the ginning process, including utilization of horse and water power, made possible progressively greater production and increased profits from the staple. Within a decade gins were in general use and all larger plantations had one as a part of its essential equipment. Small-scale farmers usually had their cotton ginned at the most convenient plantation gin.<sup>13</sup>

Almost simultaneously with the introduction of the cotton gin the Natchez Region was evacuated by the Spaniards, and, under the jurisdiction of the United States, the Mississippi Territory was created in 1798.

Cotton had hardly established itself as the staple crop of the territory when the foremost scientist of early Mississippi, Sir William Dunbar, revolutionized the process of packing cotton lint, which was originally placed in long bags. In 1800 Dunbar sent to Philadelphia a design for a screw press for the construction of which he paid over a thousand dollars. It made possible the compact cubical cotton bale with many storage and handling advantages. Dunbar's versatile interests also led him to experiment with the extraction of cottonseed oil as a possible commercial product. He inquired for a price on the oil which he described as "between the drying and fat oils, resembling linseed in color and tenacity, but perhaps less drying."<sup>14</sup> He hoped to compensate himself for his expensive screw press by using it for extraction of cottonseed oil. In this field Dunbar proved to be farsighted but too far ahead of his time. It was more than a half century before cottonseed oil became a commercial product and in 1867 there were only four cottonseed oil mills in the United States. By the end of the nineteenth century the mills numbered 300, and that industry has now grown to be an important adjunct to the cotton industry.<sup>15</sup> Mississippi alone now boasts forty cottonseed oil mills with an average annual production valued at more than fifty million dollars.<sup>16</sup>

Near the end of the eighteenth century Dunbar made one of a very few early efforts to prevent soil erosion. He began the practice of terracing his fields and laid off the rows to follow the elevation contours of the land. The practice had been suggested to Dunbar by Thomas Jefferson, who had observed it in France. In Mississippi the plan won only a few adherents and met with ridicule from many people because plentiful and cheap land apparently obviated the necessity for erosion control, crop rotation, or other conservation practices.<sup>17</sup>

Aside from the momentous advances in ginning and baling the matured cotton, another major antebellum innovation was the importation and development of improved varieties of cotton seed. The early Jamaica and Tennessee varieties were far inferior to the Mexican cotton, which subsequently became known in Mississippi as the Petit Gulf (derived from the original name of present-day town of Rodney, Mississippi). The most widely circulated story about the introduction in 1806 of this variety credits Walter Burling, a Natchez resident, with the achievement. It is said that while on a business trip to Mexico City, Burling requested permission to export to Mississippi some of the Mexican seed. The viceroy informed him that exportation of the seed was

<sup>11</sup> Riley, Franklin L., School History of Mississippi (Richmond, Va., 1915), 74-75; Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 143.

<sup>12</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 143; Lowry and McCordle, History of Mississippi, 137.

<sup>13</sup> Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 143; Lowry and McCordle, History of Mississippi, 137.

<sup>14</sup> Riley, Franklin L., "Sir William Dunbar -- Pioneer Scientist of Mississippi," Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, II (1899), 88-89, 111; Shue, W. D., "The Cotton Oil Industry," P. M. H. S., VIII (1904), 267.

<sup>15</sup> Shue, W. D., "The Cotton Oil Industry," P. M. H. S., VIII (1904), 268, 271; Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 144.

<sup>16</sup> Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950 (Business Research Station Publication, State College, Miss., 1950), 66.

<sup>17</sup> Lowrey, Bill G., Kincannon, Andrew A., and Lowrey, Rosewell, Mississippi: A Historical Reader (Nashville, 1937), 56.

in violation of the Code of the Indies, but Burling was informed that he could purchase and ship as many Mexican dolls as he pleased. The dolls, of course, were stuffed with the coveted seed. According to the story, Burling acted on this suggestion and he has received credit for bringing to Mississippi the original strain of most of the contemporary improved varieties of cotton seed.<sup>18</sup> Perhaps most of the famous antebellum varieties of cotton were Mississippi bred. In addition to the Petit Gulf strain, the Belle Creole, the Jethro, and the Parker varieties were products of Mississippi breeding.<sup>19</sup>

When Mexican seed was introduced into Mississippi, the gin had been in use a decade. By that time cotton had already dominated the economy of the white-occupied area, the southern one-third, of the Mississippi Territory. The climate and the soil were ideally suited to cotton production. Many slaves from the seaboard states were transplanted to the new lands of the Old Southwest where they fitted ideally the cotton plantation system. Ambitious whites, most of whom were non-slaveholders, also came and began the tillage of cotton in the new and fertile lands of Mississippi. When the Mexican variety was brought in, Indians occupied two-thirds of the State, but a quarter of a century later, in 1832, the entire State had been opened to white settlement. Immigration continued, and cotton production increased annually. In 1834, with hardly more than one-half of its area occupied by white settlers, Mississippi became the leading cotton producing state in the Union. During the next half century Mississippi held that distinction more than any other state, and when not leading it ran a close second. In 1859, it was the first State to produce more than one million bales of the staple in one season.<sup>20</sup> Cotton was truly king, and antebellum Mississippi may justifiably be called the paragon of the Cotton Kingdom. There were good years and bad, of course, but no crop or item of agricultural production could hope to challenge the paramount position occupied by cotton. Most of the small-scale farmers and some of the planters raised all, or almost all of the food and feed products needed for home consumption, but during the half century before the Civil War, while population in Mississippi was growing from 30,000 to almost 800,000, cotton was almost exclusively the money crop in the State.<sup>21</sup> There were, to be sure, occasional efforts to stimulate industrial development and otherwise to gain economic independence through diversification, but in 1860 only Florida among the Southern states ranked below Mississippi in manufacturing. The largest single industry, lumbering, employed only 1,425 people.<sup>22</sup> Over 97 percent of the State's population was rural, and almost all were producers of or directly dependent upon cotton.<sup>23</sup>

The Civil War forced, for many obvious reasons, curtailment of cotton production: enlistment of whites in the Confederate service, distraction among slaves and inadequate supervision of them, necessity of producing at home the essential supplies, disturbing effects of military operations, partial crop failures of 1862 and 1864, official State and Confederate encouragement to diversify, and other causes led to drastically curtailed cotton crops. Some who had considered a balanced agricultural economy desirable thought the forced diversification of war time might prove a blessing in disguise. Although circumstances did force people to rely largely on their own resources, attractive prices offered for cotton where conditions permitted its sale to the enemy, especially after 1862, constituted a great temptation to Mississippians to grow the staple. Actually the diminishing labor supply, the imperative need for a sustenance economy, and the inevitable depreciation of irreplaceable farm tools and work stock resulted in progressive curtailment of all agricultural production with the greatest decline, absolute and relative, being in cotton.<sup>24</sup> The estimated crop for the entire South in 1864 amounted to less than one-third of the 1859 production in Mississippi alone.<sup>25</sup> In Confederate Mississippi, John K. Bettersworth has suggested that during the War the individual farms and plantations of the State may not have been as self-sufficient as was the feudal manor, but the war-time conditions at least encouraged "an economy of small, regional sustenance units."<sup>26</sup>

18 Riley, School History of Mississippi, 73; Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 96; Lowry and McCardle, History of Mississippi, 135-136. For the story which credits introduction of the Mexican cotton seed to Dr. Rush Nut see Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State, I, 141.

19 Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State, 96.

20 Todd, H.P., "Shifts in Cotton Production Among and Within States, and Some Related Factors, 1800-1949," in Cotton Production, Marketing and Utilization, edited by W. B. Andrews (State College, Miss., 1950), 3-6; Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1917-18 (Bureau of the Census Bulletin No. 137, Washington, 1918), 41; McLeMore and McLeMore, Mississippi Through Four Centuries, 129. Statistics on cotton production from 1849 to 1869 in Cotton Production and Distribution are in equivalent 400-pound bales.

21 Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, p.2; McLeMore and McLeMore, Mississippi Through Four Centuries, 129, 143, 424.

22 Bettersworth, John K., Confederate Mississippi (Baton Rouge, 1943), 133.

23 Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, p. 2.

24 Bettersworth, Confederate Mississippi, 147-158.

25 Todd, H.P., "Shifts in Cotton Production Among and Within States, and Some Related Factors," in Cotton Production, Marketing and Utilization, 5.

26 Bettersworth, Confederate Mississippi, 158.

The acute problems of political readjustment in the Reconstruction Period were no more disturbing than were the difficulties along the road to economic stabilization. The landowners often found it impossible to pay cash for high taxes, for capital goods, for labor, and for food and clothing for themselves and their families. Operating largely on a credit basis, therefore, the farmers continued to a great extent the war-time live-at-home economy to keep debts at a minimum or because they could get little or no credit. For those who did not or could not own land and otherwise failed to get credit, including most of the Negroes, the share-cropping tenant system offered the logical solution.<sup>27</sup> Cotton was grown to pay debts and to raise money, but limited capital, restricted credit, and a somewhat forced self-sufficient economy prevented a rapid return to the levels of pre-war cotton production. The Mississippi crop of 1859 was not again equalled until fourteen years after the Civil War ended.<sup>28</sup>

In the 1870's the Patrons of Husbandry, better known as the National Grange, gained a large following in Mississippi. Most of the members were unsuccessful farmers or victims of Reconstruction conditions who sought some relief or improvement through the reform objectives of the Grange or through the cooperatives established by it. Its most tangible and lasting contribution resulted from its efforts in support of the establishment of the A. & M. College at Starkville. The most outstanding individual in the Mississippi Grange, Putnam Darden, served as State Master for twelve years, contended seriously for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1885, and held the position of Master of the national organization at the time of his death in 1888. The Grange thrived among the less fortunate farmers and during hard times. The relative prosperity in the early 1880's practically killed the movement.<sup>29</sup>

Mississippi had adjusted itself by 1880 to a reasonably standard economic system, which was to last for more than a generation. A few industries were established and others were to come before the close of the century, but industrial development was slow. More than ninety percent of the population was rural, the economy remained basically agricultural, and the major money crop -- as before the War -- was again cotton. After 1880 production was somewhat stabilized at more than a million bales per year.<sup>30</sup> A large portion of the yield was grown by share-croppers, and an even greater part was produced on a credit basis with the farmers paying excessive interest rates. Farmers also battled perennially the uncertainties of weather, fluctuating and generally declining market prices, exorbitant freight rates, high taxes, and many other disheartening problems. During the hard times of the late 1880's and early 1890's there flourished for a time the Farmers' Alliance, a spiritual successor to the Grange.<sup>31</sup>

The first quarter of the present century brought a number of distinctive agricultural developments. The appearance of the boll weevil in Mississippi in 1907 was perhaps the greatest blow to cotton production. Improved varieties of cotton, scientific crop rotation and fertilization, better farming methods, and use of insecticides helped offset the adverse effects of the weevil. By 1925 the per-acre cotton yield in Mississippi was again as great as it had been in the "pre-weevil" period, and acreage and total production had increased by about one-third.<sup>32</sup> In the first quarter of this century industry expanded considerably, especially those enterprises related to lumbering and timber manufacturing, but the general pattern of economy did not change a great deal. In the 1925-1928 period cotton and cotton seed accounted for 82 percent of the total farm income of the State.<sup>33</sup> Thus the position of cotton was only slightly less predominant than it had been for most of the past century. Sharecropping and credit operations had not changed a great deal since the Reconstruction Period. Some national farm legislation was enacted, especially during the Wilson Administration, which was to have an important bearing on the agricultural future.

27 Ferguson, James Sharbrough, "The Granger Movement in Mississippi," M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1940, pp. 2-37.

28 Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1917-18, p. 41.

29 Bettersworth, John K., "A Long Time A-Bornin': The Grange and the Birth Pangs of Mississippi A. & M. College," Mississippi State College Social Science Bulletin, III (State College, Miss., February, 1950), 11-17; Ferguson, "The Granger Movement in Mississippi," *passim*.

30 Ferguson, "The Granger Movement in Mississippi," 113-115, 118; Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, p. 2; Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1917-18, p. 41.

31 McCain, William David, "The Populist Party in Mississippi," M.A. thesis, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss., 1931, *passim*; Ferguson, "The Granger Movement in Mississippi," 66-95, 148-158, 164-165.

32 Cotton Production and Distribution, Season of 1917-18, pp. 18, 20, 41-42.

33 Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, pp. 74-75, 78, 82.

The most remarkable changes in Mississippi economy came during the last quarter of a century. Although the State is still predominately an agricultural one and even though at present approximately two-thirds of the cash income of the farmers is from cotton, a number of significant changes and even more impressive trends have developed.<sup>34</sup> A much greater emphasis is being placed on industrial development in the State, in part a result of the recent emphasis on balancing agriculture with industry. A decreasing farm population is working a larger crop area and producing a far greater quantity of agricultural products. Between 1925 and 1945 the State's total population increased approximately 10 percent, and the farm population decreased seven percent. While the farm population was dropping 7 percent crop land increased 16 percent and total farm land, including pasture, increased 22 percent.<sup>35</sup> During the same twenty-year period, the total farm income increased 89 percent.

There are other striking features of the recent past. Technology has found additional uses and new demands for agricultural products and by-products. Increased yields, in some cases almost phenomenal, have come from extensive utilization of machinery and electricity, scientific cultivation and fertilization, improved strains of seed and breeds of livestock, soil conservation, and crop rotation. These and many other improvements have resulted largely from the resourceful and far-sighted work of the Agricultural Experiment Station and related research and laboratory facilities and from application of improvements at the local level through the work of the Agricultural Extension Service and comparable activities. In recent years reforestation and forest farming have come to be considered as basic agricultural enterprises. Because of the increasing interest in better forest management practices timber farming is on a much more sound basis than it has ever been. The value of timber products now going to market in Mississippi is second only to the value of the State's cotton crop, and timber production is now increasing steadily. If that trend is to continue, however, the owners of small stands of timber must adopt better forest management and marketing practices.<sup>36</sup>

At the individual farm level there has been a trend toward mechanization and specialization in the production of lesser "money crops" as well as in cotton, but the over-all picture reveals that the State as a whole has diversified its agricultural activities. An average of the 1925-1928 period reveals that Mississippi farmers were getting only 18 percent of all income from products other than cotton and cotton seed. Twenty years later, in the 1945-1948 period, income from commodities other than cotton and cotton seed had more than doubled, amounting to 37 percent of the total. In these two decades, using the 1925-1928 averages in comparison with the 1945-1948 averages, the land devoted to cotton was reduced 36 percent while production decreased only 2.7 percent. Therefore, cotton production remained almost the same while the cotton acreage was reduced by more than one-third. This 1,300,000 acres of former cotton land was shifted to other crops as was another 890,000 acres of new crop land brought under cultivation during that twenty-year period.<sup>37</sup> The conversion of more than two million acres of additional land to lesser money crops, combined with more with more efficient and scientific methods of production, has accounted for some of the following significant increases in production during the 1925-1945 period: corn acreage 18 percent, corn yield 57 percent, corn value 465 percent; oat land 21 times, oat production 48 times; income from poultry products, 343 percent; milk production 74 percent and milk produced for market eight fold; wheat, 11 times; peaches, 393 percent; sweet potatoes, 215 percent; hay, 358 percent; peanuts, 625 percent; and cattle and calves, 79 percent.<sup>38</sup> These represent only a sampling, and some items, like tung oil, have become commercial products of the State since 1925 and therefore cannot be listed on a comparative basis. It seems significant, however, that acreage, production, and value of each lesser crop has increased significantly during the twenty-year period. The statistics indicate, therefore, that fewer people are cultivating and utilizing a larger crop acreage, that much land has been shifted from cotton to other money crops, and that another

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 74-75.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 2, 74-75; Ladner, Haber, (comp.), Mississippi Blue Book: Statistical Register of State, 1945-1949 (Jackson, Miss., ), 104.

<sup>36</sup> Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, pp. 78-79; Gaither, Lee, "Utilizing Mississippi's Forest Resources," Mississippi State College Social Science Bulletin, II (November, 1949), 17.

<sup>37</sup> Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, pp. 71, 73-75; Mississippi Blue Book, 1945-1949, p. 104.

<sup>38</sup> Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, 1950, pp. 71-76; Mississippi Blue Book, 1945-1949, p. 104; Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1949 (Department of Commerce, Washington, 1949), *passim*.

large amount has been brought into cultivation and has been devoted to production other than cotton, and that all land whether in cotton or other crops is producing significantly greater yields.

As far as the future is concerned, promised expansion of industry in the State will undoubtedly stimulate the demand for food crops and meat products for urban dwellers. It is likely that technology may provide a demand for new crops or a demand for by-products of old crops which could prove somewhat revolutionary in the field of agriculture in Mississippi. Even without a revolution, or revolutions, being wrought in the agricultural economy by technology or by war mobilization, the recent past would indicate that Mississippians may expect in the future the following rather hopeful results: (1) relatively, if not absolutely, smaller crops of cotton; (2) greater production of lesser crops; (3) more intensive cultivation and application of more scientific methods, which will give even greater yields per acre, and (4) a farm population which will decrease, at least relatively, but which will secure a higher real income per capita and therefore will enjoy a better standard of living.

## Population Trends in Mississippi

ABSTRACT OF A SURVEY BY H. A. PEDERSEN, DIVISION OF SOCIOLOGY AND RURAL LIFE

NOTE: The following study was made by Dr. Pedersen in connection with his current research for the Mississippi Experiment Station and was published last fall for distribution by the Mississippi Economic Council. A further study of rural trends appeared in *Farm Research* for October, 1950.

Mississippi is still a predominantly rural state according to the preliminary releases from the 1950 census enumeration. Seventy-three percent of the people in the state are living in the open country areas or in centers with a population of less than 2,500 persons. However, there has been an increasing concentration of people in and around urban centers in the state. The urban population increased during the decade at a rate almost equal to the rate of increase experienced during the decade 1920-1930, which like the past decade was a period of high economic activity.

While the urban population increased 37 percent, from 432,882 people in 1940 to 591,454 in 1950, the number of centers only increased from 48 to 51. These 51 centers are located in 43 of the 82 counties in the state, leaving 39 counties which do not have an urban center.

In 1940 there were 36 centers ranging in size from 2,500 to 9,999 persons. In the decade between 1940 and 1950, four centers increased from less than 2,500 persons to 2,500 or more persons. One center lost population and dropped out of the urban category and three centers increased to 10,000 or more persons. Thus in 1950 there are still only 36 centers in this size group.

The intermediate and large cities in the state, those cities having 10,000 or more, increased from 12 to 15. What is even more significant is that in this group the number of centers having 25,000 or more persons increased from 2 to 6. The preliminary releases placed the population of a seventh city at 24,988 and this city, too, will probably fall in the above category when the final tabulation is completed.

The 51 cities are distributed fairly evenly throughout the state. However, ten of the 15 large and intermediate urban centers are located in the 36 southern counties, and Greenville is the only city not in the southern 36 counties which has a population of 25,000 or more.

When the rates of increase for urban centers are analyzed by the size of center the intermediate and large cities have increased at nearly twice the rate of increase observed for urban centers having less than 10,000 persons living in them in 1940. The larger centers increased 41 percent while the smaller centers increased by 22 percent.

Considering next the rate of change in population by counties in the state the preliminary releases indicate that there are only 20 counties which experienced a net gain in population and 62 counties experienced a net loss. If the counties in which the gain or loss was insignificant, that is, a change of less than 5 percent either way, are excluded, the number of counties experiencing significant gains drops to 13 counties and the number of counties experiencing significant losses drops to 47 counties.

Here, too, there is a significant difference between the northern and southern groups of counties. Considering the 36 southern counties as a group these counties gained nearly ten percent in population from 1940 to 1950, while the remaining 46 counties lost over 7 percent. The rural population in both the northern and southern counties decreased but the rate of decrease was only five percent for the southern counties, whereas it was nearly 13 percent for the northern counties. The urban population in the southern counties gained 43 percent, whereas the urban population in the northern counties gained only 22 percent.

Carrying the analysis of the difference between the northern and southern areas of the state one step further, 10 of the 13 counties experiencing significant gains fall in the southern group. At the other extreme there are 11 counties which experienced losses in population in excess of 15 percent. These 11 counties with one exception (Jefferson) are in the northern group of counties.

The pattern for the distribution of counties by rate of change in the rural population is essentially the same as the pattern observed for the rates of change in the total population. There were only six counties in which the rural population increased at a rate of 5 percent or more. All six counties are adjacent to or include a large urban center, and all counties are included in the 36 southern counties.

The period between 1940 and 1950 has been a period of industrial expansion in Mississippi. The greater gains in the larger cities indicate that these centers offer better economic opportunities to the rural-urban migrants than do the smaller cities. The larger centers with more capital, greater tax resources, established and active businessmen's organization and better facilities for sewage disposal, transportation, communication,

(continued on page 30)

**NET CHANGES IN VARIOUS ECONOMIC MEASURES IN THE SOUTHEAST AND THE REMAINDER OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE WAR AND RECONVERSION PERIOD\***

Item	Percent Change		Southeast as % of U. S.	
	1939 - 1946		1939	1946
	Southeast	Other Regions		
Civilian population <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	+ 1.1	+ 6.2	21.5	20.6
Live births <sup>c</sup> . . . . .	+ 32.9	+ 49.4	25.7	23.6
Agricultural employment <sup>d</sup> . . . . .	- 9.9	- 3.2	53.5	51.7
Nonagricultural employment . . . . .	+ 21.0	+ 19.3	14.5	14.6
Total income payments . . . . .	+ 178.0	+ 134.7	11.9	13.8
Income payments by industrial source: <sup>b</sup>				
Agricultural income . . . . .	+ 184.7	+ 177.1	25.5	26.0
Manufacturing pay rolls . . . . .	+ 157.7	+ 134.9	9.2	10.0
Trade & Service income . . . . .	+ 158.0	+ 135.6	11.9	12.9
Government income payments . . . . .	+ 331.6	+ 192.0	12.5	17.4
Private construction activity . . . . .	+ 139.0	+ 113.5	14.2	15.6
Farm . . . . .	+ 49.5	+ 56.1	19.0	18.4
Nonfarm residential . . . . .	+ 68.1	+ 54.1	14.3	15.4
Nonfarm nonresidential . . . . .	+ 367.6	+ 320.2	13.8	15.1
Public utility . . . . .	+ 147.6	+ 63.1	12.0	17.2
Bank deposits <sup>e</sup> . . . . .	+ 237.4	+ 120.7	6.7	9.9
Bank debits (excluding New York City) . . . . .	+ 175.5	+ 130.4	9.7	11.4
Postal Receipts . . . . .	+ 79.1	+ 61.6	16.8	11.8
Railway revenue freight originated <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	+ 48.2	+ 32.2	16.8	18.4
Railway revenue freight terminated <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	+ 51.6	+ 25.9	15.3	17.9
Drug Store sales . . . . .	+ 137.2	+ 127.0	14.8	15.3
Farm mortgage debt outstanding . . . . .	- 16.7	- 30.7	12.8	15.0
Non-real-estate loans to farmers <sup>b</sup> . . . . .	+ 30.0	+ 9.2	16.2	18.7
Number of industrial and commercial firms . . . . .	+ 10.1	- .2	13.9	15.1
Federal government tax collections . . . . .	+ 438.6	+ 733.2	16.7	11.4

\*Computed from:- U.S. Office of Domestic Commerce, State, Regional, and Local Market Indicators, 1939-1946, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1948), passim. <sup>b</sup>1940-1946.

<sup>c</sup>1946 data corrected according to data in:- National Office of Vital Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, 1946, Part II (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1948), p.112.

<sup>d</sup>In the South and areas outside the South.

<sup>e</sup>As of December 31.

**TABLE II**  
**NET CHANGES IN COVERED EMPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST AND THE REMAINDER OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE WAR AND RECONVERSION PERIOD**

Item	Percent Change		Southeast as % of U. S.	
	1939 - 1946		1939	1946
	Southeast	Other Regions		
Total covered employment . . . . .	+ 38.7	+ 38.5	13.3	13.4
Mining . . . . .	+ 14.0	+ 5.1	17.3	18.5
Construction . . . . .	+ 23.2	+ 47.2	18.5	15.9
Service . . . . .	+ 69.3	+ 46.1	10.8	12.3
Transportation, etc. . . . .	+ 53.3	+ 36.4	12.1	13.4
Trade . . . . .	+ 38.9	+ 29.5	12.5	13.3
Finance, etc. . . . .	+ 56.3	+ 20.7	6.9	8.8
Manufacturing . . . . .	+ 37.7	+ 47.3	14.4	13.5
Food . . . . .	+ 49.1	+ 24.5	11.8	13.8
Tobacco . . . . .	+ 3.9	- 9.1	52.4	55.7
Textiles . . . . .	+ 16.1	+ 1.3	42.7	46.1
Apparel . . . . .	+ 55.9	+ 19.3	8.6	11.0
Lumber . . . . .	+ 47.0	+ 21.1	43.8	48.6
Furniture . . . . .	+ 34.4	+ 23.7	24.4	26.0
Paper . . . . .	+ 83.7	+ 37.4	11.6	15.0
Printing . . . . .	+ 23.3	+ 17.1	6.4	6.7
Chemicals . . . . .	+ 62.4	+ 79.4	21.0	19.4
Petroleum products . . . . .	+ 115.0	+ 63.0	7.9	10.2
Rubber products . . . . .	+ 135.5	+ 77.6	4.2	5.4
Leather . . . . .	+ 33.4	+ 6.7	5.1	6.3
Stone, clay, & glass . . . . .	+ 22.3	+ 41.2	11.7	10.3
Iron & steel . . . . .	+ 31.8	+ 41.1	6.2	5.8
Nonferrous metals . . . . .	+ 184.8	+ 69.2	3.7	6.1
Electrical machinery . . . . .	+ 114.3	+ 112.3	1.2	1.2
Machinery (except electrical) . . . . .	+ 140.9	+ 104.8	2.2	2.6
Automobiles . . . . .	+ 54.2	- 15.1	1.6	3.0
Misc. Manufacturing . . . . .	- 31.6	+ 13.3	4.5	2.8

\*Computed from:- Reports of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1941 (Part 2, pp. 585-588); 1944 (Part 2, pp. 536, 537); 1947 (Part 2, pp. 596-600); Bureau of Employment Security, "Labor Market Survey, Savannah, May, 1941," pp. 4, 5; letter from Hon. Ben T. Huie.

# WORLD WAR II AND THE SOUTHEASTERN ECONOMY

## A Summary Sketch

by

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NOTE: The following article is the summary chapter of a dissertation completed by Dr. Kelly at Vanderbilt last summer. It is hoped that a more detailed account may be published by the Social Science Research Center in the near future. One chapter of this study, that portion dealing with Pascagoula, Miss., appeared in the Bulletin for Summer, 1950.

Many of the stresses and strains of conversion to war and reconversion to peace were more severe in the Southeast than in the remainder of the nation. It seemed the region's hard lot to be host to the more up-setting activities generated by the national emergency. In the nonbelligerent, rearming phase, thousands of recruits overran the countryside on maneuvers and poured into the towns on week ends, overflowing parks, theaters, pool halls, restaurants, and buses, and snarling street traffic. Soon afterward came the violent, urgent, up-surge in shipyard employment, with the yards anchored of necessity to natural harbors and the swarms of immigrating workers and their dependents overflowing housing, sanitary, and amusement facilities. The greatest local population increases and cost-of-living increases in the nation occurred in the Southeast.

These stresses came to the region that was least equipped to stand them. Long years of relative poverty had left the region with a large proportion of its housing units old, overcrowded, in need of major repairs, and lacking in basic sanitary facilities; with schools, hospitals, jails, and public health services, inadequate for even the normal population; and with channels of distribution geared to a low level of consumption. The segregation of the large colored population added to the burdens on community facilities and hampered the efficient use of the labor force in expanding war industries.

At the end of the war, the second largest industry group in the region collapsed in a matter of weeks, leaving dozens of idle shipyards with thousands of adjacent war-built dwellings isolated from peace-time work places and hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers a long way from home.

Nevertheless, the region displayed a surprising degree of adaptability. Thousands of Negroes moved from the ranks of domestic service and common labor into semi-skilled and skilled jobs alongside white workers, and few man-days were lost from the friction generated by this movement. Women moved out of housework and clerical jobs to weld ship plates and pack TNT into projectiles alongside men workers - and at equal pay scales. Workers of both races and sexes moved into factories from farms, schools, and stores and, with local managerial talent supplemented by thousands of imported technicians, established new records in quantity and quality production.

As to the over all results of the war and reconversion, the net changes in the measures examined in this study indicated that, on the whole, economic progress was more rapid in the Southeast than in the nation at large during the war and reconversion period. (See Table I.) The relatively smaller increases in population and births tended toward a better short- and long-run balance between the labor supply and the capital facilities of the region. Also there was promise of lessening racial conflict in the decline of the proportion of non-whites in the population.<sup>1</sup>

Agricultural employment declined and nonagricultural employment increased faster than in the other regions. Among the nonagricultural industry divisions, all but Construction and Manufacturing comprised a larger proportion of the national total

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1. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Characteristics of the United States: April, 1947, Series P-70, No. 1, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947), p. 10.

than before.<sup>2</sup> (See Table II.) Among the manufacturing industry groups, the region made significant relative gains in apparel, automobiles, food, leather, lumber and timber, nonferrous metals, paper, petroleum, rubber, textiles, and tobacco products. It lagged behind the rest of the nation in chemical, iron and steel, miscellaneous manufacturing, and stone, clay, and glass products. It would seem that the groups of longstanding importance continued to hold their own and that relative gains in some of the others produced a better balance of industrial employment than before the war in spite of the lag in the growth of total manufacturing employment.<sup>3</sup>

Unemployment in April 1947 was only about one-fourth as heavy as it was seven years earlier. It was somewhat lighter in the Southeast than in the nation as a whole, having declined at about the same rate in both areas.<sup>4</sup>

Income payments rose faster in the Southeast than elsewhere in spite of the slower growth of farm and factory employment there. This reflected the relatively greater increase in net income per farm operator and in factory wages as compared with the remainder of the nation and with most of the other divisions in the Southeast.<sup>5</sup> Government income payments<sup>6</sup> increased more than those from any of the other industrial sources, especially in the Southeast. Among the income payment groups classified by type of payment, proprietors' income rose faster than wages and salaries in both areas but the differential rate was greater in the Southeast. The net increase in property income was less than that in wages and salaries but again was greater in the Southeast. (See Table III.)

The dollar value of new private construction registered a greater net increase for the period in the Southeast than in the United States for all of its major components except farm construction. (The relative lag in Southeastern construction employment must have reflected a greater decline in public construction there.) Non-residential construction increased most in both areas, but the Southeast showed the greatest relative advantage in public utility construction, which increased at more than twice the rate of the other regions.

Bank debits, postal receipts, drug store sales, and railroad revenue freight, all indicated a greater than average increase of business activity in the Southeast and the number of business firms rose 10 per cent in the face of a slight decline elsewhere. Bank deposits more than tripled in volume but were still very low in comparison with the national total. Federal tax collections, on the other hand, lagged somewhat behind the tremendous increase that occurred in the nation as a whole. Perhaps this reflected the tendency of the war-born tax system to bear more heavily on the wealthy industrial regions. Southeastern farmers made less progress than others in liquidating mortgage indebtedness during the war, and they increased their short-term indebtedness faster. However, it was still relatively low considering the large number of farmers in the region.

The period, 1940-1947, brought a considerable improvement in the quality and quantity of the housing facilities of the South and of the other regions of the nation, notwithstanding the development of acute shortages in some local areas. On the whole, the rate of improvement was greater in the South than in the remainder of the nation, but it remained below the national average in all of the usual measures of adequacy. (See Table IV.) Some of this improvement was due to the construction of public low-rent housing units; 30.8 per cent of the nation's supply of these were in the Southeast at the beginning of 1946.<sup>7</sup>

2. Compare U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor in the South, Bulletin No. 898 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947), pp. 29, 35.

3. Charles T. Taylor, "Sixth District War Plants," Monthly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, XXXII (September 1947), 110.

4. Thomas A. Kelly, "The Impact of World War II on the Southeastern Economy With Special Reference to Selected Local Areas," Ph.D. Thesis (Vanderbilt, 1950), p. 93.

5. Ibid., pp. 102-110.

6. These consist of payments to government employees, interest payments to individuals, veterans' bonuses and pensions, and benefit payments from relief and social insurance.

7. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor in the South, pp. 110-117.

Several millions received intensive vocational training in industrial and agricultural production techniques during the war, thus acquiring skills which added materially to their potential productivity in peace-time industry.<sup>8</sup> Many moved from colleges and the ranks of operatives into supervisory positions, where they obtained valuable training under technicians and experienced supervisors imported from other regions. This reservoir of adaptable workers in the chronically overpopulated Southeast was a most important contribution to the national war effort.

In return the Southeast received the lion's share of the greatly inflated volume of government payments to individuals.<sup>9</sup> Much of this was due to the movement of a large part of the labor force from agricultural and domestic service work into the war plants, where they accumulated wage credits in the unemployment compensation reserve funds. After the war, benefit payments from these funds reached an all-time high in many southeastern areas.<sup>10</sup> An even greater volume of government payments was received in the form of Servicemen's Readjustment Allowances. The South received approximately 50 per cent of the allotments under this program for self employed veterans and a more than proportional share of the payments to disabled veterans.

Finally, the Second World War provided a smaller impetus to the growth of total manufacturing industry in the Southeast than in the nation as a whole but left it with a better balanced economy and a considerably augmented store of purchasing power, liquid capital, and industrial experience. Perhaps the relative lag in industrialization will enable the region to avoid many of the sore spots of the older factory areas.

8. Thomas A. Kelly, *op. cit.*, pp. 111-115.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 344.

10. Ernest J. Eberling, "Economic Changes Since 1940 in Social Security Region VII" (address to the Legal Affairs Conference of Employment Security Agencies, Savannah, Georgia, April 29, 1946), pp. 6, 7, 10.

TABLE III

NET CHANGES IN INCOME PAYMENTS BY TYPE OF PAYMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST AND THE UNITED STATES, 1939-1946\*

Type of Payment	Per Cent Change 1939 - 1946		Southeast as Per Cent of United States	
	South- east	United States	1939	1946
Wages and salaries	173.4	141.7	11.2	12.7
Proprietors' income	213.0	219.1	17.9	17.6
Property income....	88.4	58.8	8.8	10.5
Other income.....	290.3	167.5	11.9	17.4

\*. Computed from:- Charles F. Schwartz, "State Income Payments in 1944," *Survey of Current Business*, XXV (August 1945), 17, 18; Charles F. Schwartz and Robert E. Graham, Jr., "State Income Payments in 1947," *Survey of Current Business*, XXVIII (August 1948), 21.

TABLE IV

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS IN THE SOUTH AND THE REMAINDER OF THE UNITED STATES, APRIL 1940 AND 1947\*

Item	Per Cent of All Dwelling Units			
	South		Other Regions	
	1947	1940	1947	1940
With private bath and flush toilet.....	45.1	32.0	73.9	64.6
With running water in the unit.. . . .	59.8	45.8	85.8	79.7
With electric lighting. . . . .	75.5	54.5	94.6	88.6
Not in need of major repairs. . . . .	83.2	73.0	92.9	83.4
With 1.5 or less persons per room. . . . .	88.5	82.6	96.1	94.6

\*. Computed from:- U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Housing Characteristics of the United States: April, 1947*, Series P-70, No. 11 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1947), pp. 10, 11, 13, 15, 22.

## MISSISSIPPI IN 1950

by

R. A. McLemore and Nannie P. McLemore  
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**NOTE:** The following article was written originally for the Christmas edition of the Hattiesburg American. Professor McLemore is a noted Mississippi historian and is dean of Mississippi Southern College.

Mississippi passed the 133rd anniversary of its admission to the Federal Union on December 10, 1950, and the 251st anniversary of the establishment of the first white settlement on its soil on April 8, 1950. Each year significant developments have occurred which have formed the history of the State. In 1950 many changes have come which have been of great significance. The writers are listing ten developments which they consider of great importance.

I. Population Changes. The preliminary census figures reveal certain very important factors in connection with the State's population:

A. The total population of the State is 2,173,050, as compared to 2,183,796 in 1940. The causes of the decrease and means of meeting the situation are questions in the minds of the citizens.

B. One of the results of the population decrease will be the loss of one congressional seat and consequently a decrease of influence in national affairs.

C. The population shifts also revealed an increase of urban population and a decrease of rural population. Mississippi remained a rural state with 73% of its population living in places of 2500 or less, but the increase in urban population seemed to indicate an increasing development of manufacturing enterprises.

D. The population shifts also revealed that the southern part of the State was increasing in population while the northern part was decreasing. Since the southern counties are least dependent upon agriculture there seemed to be an important trend here. It was also evident that certain political problems would become more pressing as a result of the shift of population within the State.

II. Cotton Prices. On November 9 cotton prices reached the highest levels in the 79-year-old history of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, 42.10 cents per pound. The fact that the Mississippi crop was relatively good this year—a total estimated production of 1,420,00 bales—meant that there would be more money in the pockets of Mississippians. The announcement that has been made that no restrictions will be placed on the amount of acreage planted in cotton next year will probably mean the largest plantings in the history of the State.

III. Last of the Ferries. The completion of the bridge over the Pascagoula River on Highway 26 connecting Lucedale and Wiggins marked the end of the ferries. Since the earliest days man has had to depend upon ferries to put him across the numerous rivers in the State. One after another, these ferries have been displaced by bridges. The completion of this bridge removed the last ferry from a major highway.

IV. Rural Road Program. The great unsolved road problem in Mississippi has been the building of satisfactory rural roads. In 1950 the State Legislature adopted a long-range, pay-as-you-go, rural road program that promised to bring about a gradual solution of this problem. It is interesting to know that every legislature has spent a large portion of its time in trying to improve the transportation facilities within the State.

V. Sales Tax for Cities. The increasing costs of operation had created serious financial problems for all of the cities in the State. The method finally adopted for meeting the crisis was to permit cities with 13,500 population or more to levy a half-cent sales tax. Twelve of the State's cities were eligible to levy this tax. The serious financial embarrassment of the cities forced five of them to adopt the program before the year was out. The adoption of this method of providing the necessary revenue for the maintenance of the cities seemed to indicate a continued trend away from the property tax as the principal source of revenue.

VI. Improved Facilities for the Education of the Negroes. The biggest problem in the field of education for Mississippi is the provision of adequate facilities for Negroes. Under the leadership of Governor Fielding L. Wright, the State

Legislature appropriated the largest sum in its history for the education of Negroes. This program is of the highest importance because it promises to increase the economic productivity of a large part of the State's population.

VII. Medical School. Mississippi is one of two states which do not have a four-year accredited medical school. The high cost of establishing and maintaining an acceptable medical school has been the principal obstacle to securing its organization. In its session this year the Legislature enacted laws making the establishment of a medical school a possibility. This should eventually assure the State of an adequate number of physicians.

VIII. Nobel Prize to a Mississippian. The highest literary award in the world is the Nobel prize. William Faulkner, a native of New Albany, educated in Mississippi, and resident of the State, was awarded the prize for 1949. Faulkner was the fourth American to receive the prize. This signal honor, awarded on the 133rd anniversary of Mississippi's admission to the union, was an evidence of Mississippi's cultural and literary development.

IX. Constitutional Amendments. The piecemeal modification of the state constitution continued in 1950 with two amendments aimed at meeting new conditions. One of them provided for an increase in the number of Supreme Court justices from six to nine. The increased amount of judicial business made some relief necessary. The second amendment gave ministers' wives the same franchise privilege their husbands enjoy.

X. The Korean War. The impact of an international crisis was felt within the State. The Korean War forced the mobilization of units of the National Guard, the recalling of numerous reservists, and the drafting of a number of young men. The expenses caused by the war resulted in an increase of federal taxes. The greatest effect of the struggle, however, was the uncertainty aroused in the minds of the citizens over the future.

## *Home Life and Juvenile Delinquency*

The quality of home life determines whether a child will become a juvenile delinquent, according to a ten-year study conducted by Prof. Sheldon Glueck and Dr. Eleanor Touroff Glueck of the Harvard Law School, under auspices of the school and financed by a number of leading foundations.

A husband and wife team noted for their research in the field of criminology and delinquency, the Gluecks based their findings on a study of 500 delinquent boys living in the slum areas of Boston, and a control group of 500 boys from the same area who did not get into trouble with the police. They found that if the child's family life was adequate, the chances were only three in 100 that he would turn out to be a delinquent, whereas if his family situation was poor, the chances were ninety-eight out of 100 that he would become a delinquent. The factors that showed up most among delinquent boys were: A father whose discipline was lax, or overstrict or erratic (not firm and kindly); a mother who left the boy to his own devices without provision for a healthy use of his leisure time; a father or mother who rejected the boy emotionally, and a family whose home was "just a place to hang your hat."

The Gluecks found differences between the delinquents and the non-delinquents on two major points--character traits and personality traits. If a boy was markedly willful, assertive, defiant of everyone, suspicious and hostile without reason, wanted to destroy or hurt others and himself and "exploded" emotionally regardless of consequences, there was "every chance in the world that he would turn out to be a delinquent," they predicted. If his personality was such that he was usually looking for excitement, change or risk, if he ordinarily did what he pleased, if he usually resisted because he felt thwarted, and if his feelings were in conflict and he had "unharmonious or inappropriate" feelings, the chances were ninety-three in 100 that he would become a delinquent, they estimated. If he scored low on all these points, the chances were only five in 100 that he would develop into a delinquent.

They concluded that the kind of relationships that existed in a home between the boy and his parents had far more to do with delinquency than whether he lived in a slum area, or grew up among conflicting cultures, or came from a large family or from a family where there was much ill health, or had a high or low I.Q. "It is clear that in the home and in the parent-child relations are to be found the crucial roots of character which make for acceptable or unacceptable adjustment to the realities of life in society," they said. They warned that "little progress can be expected in the prevention of delinquency until family life is strengthened by a large-scale, continuous, pervasive program designed to bring to bear all the resources of mental hygiene, social work, education, and religion and ethical instruction..." Minor childhood offenses, such as smoking, staying out late and petty stealing are no indication that a boy will become a persistent violator of the law, they found. One-fourth of the non-delinquent boys "had been guilty of the usual boyish pranks and peccadilloes which might have caused a passing policeman to arrest them."

Among the delinquent boys more than half were older than eight years at the first "clear" signs of a persistent tendency to misbehavior. The I.Q. scores of the two groups ranged from 60 to 120, with the average for delinquents 92, and for the non-delinquents 94. (*New York Times*)

# INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION IN MISSISSIPPI:

## Implications for Research

NOTE: The research potentials in the field of industrialization and urbanization have been chosen as the subject for a study in a social science seminar recently formed among the social scientists at Mississippi State College. The first discussion period was held on February 14. In preparation for this session a panel of specialists representing the major disciplines, with Dr. Gordon K. Bryan as moderator, wrote the papers that follow. Dr. Harald A. Pedersen undertook to codify those reports for presentation at the seminar meeting. His report is given below, followed by the individual papers submitted.

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

by

HARALD A. PEDERSEN

Division of Sociology and Rural Life

Urbanization and industrialization are frequently considered to be concurrent, if not identical, phenomena. This is not necessarily the case. The distinction between the two must be made explicit before an intelligent discussion of research possibilities can be undertaken.

Urbanization is the concentration of people in centers and is also used to designate the pattern of living which has developed in these centers. It involves the substitution of contractual for traditional controls and norms.

Industrialization is the development of primary, secondary and tertiary processing plants which will utilize the raw materials available in the area. It involves increasing the input of capital in the form of plants and equipment, thereby increasing the efficiency of labor, and assuring a higher per capita return to the area.

Historically, industrialization has given impetus to urban development. Mass production industries require a large labor force within easy access of the plants and have tended to favor plant sites in or near urban centers. The agglomeration of industrial plants has added to the concentration of population and placed industry in the position of bidding competitively for labor. This, and the increasing vulnerability to attack under conditions of modern warfare, has resulted in the recent trend of dispersion of industrial plants to non-urban areas.

Though there are developing concentrations, dispersion rather than concentration had characterized industrial development in Mississippi. The consensus of the panel is that the unique contribution of research dealing with industrialization in Mississippi will be in terms of the effect of industrialization under conditions of dispersion rather than under conditions of concentration.

Within these limits a number of specific problems or areas of research are enumerated. The list as presented here is not a complete enumeration of the problems brought up by the members of the panel or of the problems associated with industrialization.

1. An inventory of present industries in Mississippi. To carry forward an analysis of industrialization it is necessary to evaluate the present status of industrial development in the state and to trace at least the recent historical trend of industrial development. Such an evaluation could profitably be oriented within the frame of reference developed by Harriet Herring at North Carolina. At least, some system of classification of industries is essential to the analysis. As corollary to this would be an analysis of the existing labor force with respect to education, skills, and present occupation.
2. The extent of dispersion or concentration. The second prerequisite to the analysis will be to establish the validity of the assumption stated earlier that dispersion rather than concentration has characterized industrial development in Mississippi. This analysis will determine the nature of the questions which can be answered through an analysis of Mississippi data.

3. Industrialization and agriculture. Does the development of industry result in the commercialization of agriculture and how does this affect the land-use pattern in the area? A second development which is usually associated with industrial development is the increase in part-time farming. How does this affect agricultural production in the area? Finally, how does agriculture fare when it is forced to compete with industry for labor?
4. Home and Family life. Does industrial employment under conditions of dispersion have the same effect on the home and family life as under conditions of concentration. This would involve housing studies, family budget analysis, and the study of consumption habits or preferences. These studies would have implications both for business and for agriculture. An important aspect of this phase of the analysis would be an evaluation of the effect on the home where the housewife finds outside employment.
5. Capital requirements. Industrial development entails the investment of capital resources in plant and equipment. If capital is imported, it frequently means that management also is imported. What effect will this have on the community? And, does the economic situation in Mississippi have the stability necessary to attract outside capital?
6. Government. An important corollary effect of capital investment and the importation of management is the effect which this will have on government and political control in the state. This should be considered both from the standpoint of attracting industry and from the standpoint of the resulting adjustments. Can local governments absorb the added responsibilities entailed by the introduction of industrial plants in the area without changes in present state legislation? Protection against nuisance and damage by waste disposal and other accretments of industry become more complex under conditions of dispersion.
7. Institutional adjustments. The changing work cycle resulting from industrial employment and from probable changes in agriculture may necessitate rather far-reaching adjustments in the programs of schools, churches and recreational facilities. This will necessitate a re-evaluation of school facilities, school curricula, and religious and recreational programs in light of the probable effects of industrial development.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE PANEL

##### The Agricultural Economist Speaks

by

O. T. OSGOOD

Continuing industrialization and urbanization imposes an obligation on research to guide and facilitate these developments.

Inventorying and evaluating resources of areas offering the best prospects for industrial development are among the first steps in a most basic program. Analysis of these data in terms of comparative advantage in location for the types of industrial development offering greatest opportunities give meaning to the data on resources and suggest development programs needed.

Research for guiding the various phases of development in industrialization and urbanization becomes most meaningful and helpful after the nature of the probable general development is determined. Even historical study of successful developments can best be made by considering developments in the phases under study in relation to other phases and the over-all setting in which the developments took place.

All these implications for research in industrialization and urbanization point to the need for a very broad approach. They imply a need for information and evaluation in many subject-matter fields, the type of information ranging from the most general to the most specialized and detailed. They imply a need for coordinating efforts and for correlation and evaluation among the various subject-matter fields; all directed toward the same objective of guiding and facilitating sound development. For these reasons, an organizational framework favorable to the type of operation indicated becomes a very important consideration in planning for research in industrialization and associated urbanization.

Much other basic preliminary work also might well precede actual initiation of major research projects. This would include assembling and analyzing much available information in determining general areas offering greatest opportunities for the research organization that is to undertake the work, working through and with present organizations. Listing major criteria for sound industrial development should be included among these preliminaries to determination of general areas in which research is to be undertaken.

Two general areas of research in which economists and agricultural economists will be interested are: (1) Research to promote and guide sound industrial development, and (2) Research in inter-relationships between agriculture and industrial development in major areas.

## The Economist Speaks

by

WILLIAM WEINER

The timing and the stability of investment upon which industrialization is based are of vital importance in maintaining a high level of employment, production and purchasing power. A study aimed at determining what level of investment and what timing and stability is necessary for maintaining near full employment in the state would make a real contribution from a long-run standpoint. Closely related to the problem of employment are questions of income and costs and standards of living. Research could possibly throw some light on the relationship between industrialization, income and cost and standards of living.

Industrialization in a defense-g geared economy may bring with it specific controls by the federal government. Such controls may exert a profound influence upon the socio-economic life of the people of Mississippi. An important problem to both the political scientist and the economist is whether the disadvantages connected with the imposition of such controls may outweigh the advantages of industrialization. An investigation concerned with the economic implications of increasing federal regulation and control attributable to industrialization of the state would be a worthwhile project.

With the advent of a multi-billion dollar defense program, an accelerated economic development of physical resources will probably become a national policy. Compilation of data on actual and potential natural resources such as lumber, oil, cotton and natural gas should be of invaluable aid to federal and state government officials. Studies on the development and use of natural resources produced within the state are also needed. Information on technological and human "resources" would have to be gathered for any useful analysis. For example, the release of farm hands for work in factories (i.e., the reduction of hidden farm "unemployment") resulting from the introduction of more extensive use of cotton pickers, tractors, etc., could have a far-reaching importance in providing our defense needs. It is expected that a shortage of labor will develop within the next half year or so. Investigation could reveal possibilities of employing an increased number of women.

Technical studies to determine what manufacturing industries or firms can operate efficiently in Mississippi would prove helpful. In this connection, the question of decentralization of industry for defense reasons should not be neglected.

A shift from a predominantly rural to an urban state, unless it involves a balanced growth of industry and safeguards to protect rural areas, may lead to an intensification of problems of inequality of income and wealth, slum areas, inadequate educational, recreational and health facilities, obsolescent transportation and communication, lack of coordination of industries, migrant labor, greater fluctuations of employment, income, prices, untenanted property and conflict of special interest groups. The areas of investigation suggested include a general study to determine a program of balanced growth and special studies to ascertain specific needs—e.g., the number of sub-standard dwelling units and the necessary number of housing units for various income levels.

The question of what wage and salary protection should be afforded "minority" groups such as women and Negroes could be objectively investigated in view of the special problems and needs involved.

One-half to three-fourths of the world's people are living in distressing poverty and considerable industrialization is essential to lift their productivity sufficiently to provide for their material comfort. The question arises, "What effects of industrialization in Mississippi may reasonably be expected to apply to other predominantly agricultural areas of the world?" In carrying out a research program concerned with such implications, caution with respect to political, cultural and ethnical differences would be essential. For example, economic and political domination by a lending nation might be of a different character than a creditor-debtor relationship within the United States.

1. As used here, the term encompasses the theoretical knowledge or "know how" of arts, sciences and industry and includes the level of mechanical development in industry, transportation, communication, etc.

## The Educator's View

by

ADOLPH W. ALEX

A variety of ways in which to approach the study of this problem makes it difficult to avoid a certain arbitrariness in the choice of approach.

Two factors largely influenced the selection of the several questions submitted below as starting points for group discussion. First, a body of information concerning industrialization and urbanization in Mississippi is available. This availability of information holds true for education as well. Second, methods of research have been rather well developed and are at the disposal of investigators.

While the term "education" as used here is restricted to formal education of a publicly supported kind, this connotation is to be thought of as tentative rather than fixed.

From the standpoint of the proposed interdisciplinary study one of a number of practical places to begin is a consideration of the average income per child of public school age.

The following questions are pertinent:

1. How are industrialization and urbanization affecting Mississippi's ability to pay for education? (How much can we pay?)
2. Does accomplishment in educational achievement in Mississippi parallel the state's ability to pay for education? (Have we been getting our money's worth?)
3. If the percentage of income devoted to education is taken as a measure of the relative degree of effort, is Mississippi making a reasonable effort in education? (Are we trying our best to support and develop education?)
4. How efficient is Mississippi in its use of money for education? (Do we always use our money wisely?)
5. What is the significance of industrialization and urbanization for the educational level of the adult population in the state?
6. With the increase of industrialization and urbanization in Mississippi, for what kind of education will there be a growing demand and need?

7. What national trends in social life are significant for Mississippi life in ways that peculiarly affect material progress and educational advance?

### The Historian Speaks

by

JAMES H. McLENDON

The growth of industry and the tendency toward urbanization challenge all branches of the social sciences. The field of history, inherently interdisciplinary, is burdened with compiling the record of industrial and urban development as a basis for charting past and for forecasting future trends. The scope is practically unlimited. Only a few of the many possibilities may be suggested here.

The immediate prospect of long-time mobilization suggests the need for a study of types and extent of industrial expansion stimulated in response to the demands of World War II, possibly even of World War I, as indicators of development trends to be expected in the immediate future. Examination of labor migration generally, and perhaps a collateral study of Negro migration, during the past periods of mobilization should suggest conditions to be expected again in a predominantly agricultural region. Connected therewith is the implication that mechanization of farming, even in periods not disturbed by mobilization, has released an increasing number of workers to local and to remote industries.

The shorter work day and work week in industry suggests a possibility that increasing numbers of industrial workers may be engaging in part-time farming or other enterprise during their spare time. It is important to know the extent of any such part-time activity, the influence it has on agricultural production, the bearing it has on income and standards of living of the people so engaged, and the positive or negative effects it has on their efficiency as industrial employees.

A review of labor and farm reform movements, their achievements and their failures, should be studied in an effort to evaluate the likelihood of gaining, politically or otherwise, their objectives of the present and of the immediate future. To qualify any of these prospects would require a determination of the growing positive or negative correlation between the interests and reform objectives of the industrial worker and of the contemporary farmer. These findings might aid in revealing the likelihood of urban workers securing support from the farmers, or vice versa, in the struggle for reform.

The history of various individual industries, especially the greatest one, timber cutting and processing, offer many problems for research. The location of industries with relation to material, power, and human resources should be examined to determine the extent these factors have influenced mechanization and urbanization. The evolution of the way of life and standards of living in the mill towns and mill sections is worthy of review. A study of purchasing facilities and credit practices of factory workers should be analyzed and perhaps compared to the similar facilities and practices utilized by farmers.

Industrialization presents a possibility of over-expansion in certain fields of enterprise. A study, for instance, of the abnormally rapid development of the timber manufacturing industry a generation ago might reveal mistakes along the line of over-expansion and faulty location to be avoided in the contemporary period. These are but a few of the many factors which must be known in order to develop any well-balanced history of urbanization and mechanization.

### The Home Economist's View

by

DOROTHY DICKINS

I. What conditions will increased urbanization and industrialization bring about which may present problems for trained social scientists in the area of Home Economics? Among these are: (a) higher family incomes; (b) greater dependency of the family on money income; (c) less opportunity for wives and children to contribute to the income of the family by working at home, and increasing opportunities for gainful employment of women away from home.

II. What are some research problems in connection with these conditions, that home economists in the Social Sciences have a contribution to make?

(a) Levels of consumption of families as industrialization increases. Long time studies of consumer purchases in relation to income and other socioeconomic, psychological, and environmental factors are important for giving a sound basis for guiding such families in their financial planning. Such studies will also give basic data needed in determining effects of industrialization on the family. These studies will serve as a basis for estimates of what families will purchase under given conditions, data much needed by "marketeers".

(b) Studies of the economics of food production for home use. With a shift of workers from farm to non-farm work, should there be adjustments in production of food for home use? Research should furnish facts that may assist in such decisions. Only a limited amount of research has thus far been devoted to costs of production for home use. Are there benefits to be derived from having a garden, for example, which cannot be measured in dollars and cents? Are there better family relationships when members have such chores to do together? Is the family better fed?

Another neglected area is the interrelationship of home-production to the market. If industrial workers produce their food, then they compete with the farmer. Data are needed on kinds, amounts, grades, and/or qualities, sources of purchase, prices paid for specified foods used by families in rural industrial communities as compared with those in urban communities. A study just about completed in the Home Economics Department suggests that local farmers do not necessarily benefit from a rural industrial program.

(c) Studies of consumer buying. Since with urbanization and industrialization the family will depend increasingly for its goods and services on the market, research on the buying process will be important. Some problems that might be worth attacking are: (1) an evaluation of the methods now used in teaching family

budgeting and selection of goods on the market. (2) a study of the influence of advertising on consumption patterns of rural-industrial families. (3) a study of the possibility of cooperation between groups of consumers and retailers. To what extent can a group of homemakers develop a local program of market information, of adequate labeling for products, better advertising and other improvements in the local market through cooperation with local merchants?

(d) Studies of families in which the homemaker is gainfully employed. The Agricultural and Industrial Board has been the means of bringing a number of industries into the state, especially industries employing women. In a study made in 1938-40 by the Home Economics Department of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, "Some Contrasts in the Levels of Living of Women Engaged in Farm, Textile Mill, and Garment Plant Work," differences were found in levels of living of these women and their families. Forty per cent of the married women working in garment plants were married to farm operators. The net case income from farm operation in these families was low--much lower than in farm operator families where the wife gave full time to farm home-making. In view of the fact that there are a number of garment plants in the state employing farm operators' wives, it would seem that a study of farm and home management in these families might be important. Another important study would be of the children in these families, their care and training.

### The Political Scientist Speaks

by

GORDON K. BRYAN

The Problem. If research in government is to be realistic and of value, it must be related to the social and economic developments which fundamentally condition life in society. Thus, within the present frame of reference, the basic problem for the researcher in government becomes: How is government in Mississippi influencing and being influenced by urbanization and industrialization in the State?

#### Specific Suggestions for Research in Government:

1. Analysis of the effects of selected governmental agencies and policies upon population trends and industrial development in the State and vice versa.
2. Determine whether or not there is any correlation between economic developments and voting behavior.
3. Frederick J. Turner concludes from statistical analysis that: "The rough country, the least valuable farm lands, the illiterate counties tend, by and large, to be Democratic, as do the principal immigrant populations of the greater cities. The favored soil regions, the least illiterate areas, the most highly capitalized and industrial districts tend to be anti-Democratic, Federal, Whig, Republican, according to the area." Might this conclusion be valid as applied to determining the probable future effects of urbanization and industrialization upon the political party system in the South (Mississippi)? Might it eventually produce a two-party system in this area? If so, what are the implications for governmental organization and administration in this State?

4. How to vitalize and put to desirable use the technical information made available through the efforts of researchers in the social and economic fields? This involves the problem of political leadership and its effective use. "We often know better than we do". Is this true? If so, why, and what can be done about it?

The Problem of Interdisciplinary Research. Speaking from the viewpoint of an agricultural economist, Theodore W. Schultz recently stated as follows: "When the research worker turns from production activities, transformation functions, and production possibilities based on technical conditions . . . , and endeavors to relate these production activities to the preference of the community, he becomes confused. The concepts are not understood; and the process by which a community-- be it markets, the political mechanism, or a slower moving cultural process-- coordinates individual preferences is for him an area of social analysis in which he is a novice". The same could be said speaking from the viewpoint of any of the social science fields; we are all novices outside of our own fields of specialty. How to coordinate effectively the research of a number of fields upon problems too broad for any one to handle alone and to synthesize the results satisfactorily is a fundamental problem of research to which attention can profitably be given.

### EDITORIAL NOTE

One of the members of the panel was Professor Lee B. Gaither of the Department of Resource-Use Education, who submitted for use by the panel a study, "Manufacturing in Mississippi," which appeared in *Resource-Use Notes*, Vol. II, No. 5 (January, 1950), and was also published in the *Social Science Bulletin*, Vol. III, No. I (February, 1950).

The seminar has selected as its subject for the next meeting, which will occur on March 14th, the problem of the relationship between industrialization and the labor potential of Mississippi. The panel for this discussion will consist of: Dr. T. A. Kelly, Dr. Ben M. Wofford, Dr. Harald Pedersen, Dr. Dorothy Dickens, Professor James B. Gaines, and Professor Lee B. Gaither.

# THE STUDENT LIFE AT MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLEGE

## Part I

by

JOHN K. BETTERS WORTH

The student who arrived for the first time on the campus of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College in the early years was in no fit condition to be impressed with the wonders of college life. He had probably spent anywhere from one to three days on antiquated, sooty railway cars, arriving inevitably at Artesia, only to have to spend the night at the junction before negotiating the remaining ten miles to Starkville. Often the boys would undertake to put this last few miles behind them by walking. Then, the first glance of the campus could have been none too happy. The students of 1880 arrived at a campus still a-building; and for years to come the autumnal registrants usually found a campus covered with a flourishing growth of prairie weeds, the disappearance of which was judiciously tied up with the system of student labor.

Add to all this the homesickness, the uncomfortable feeling in the pit of the stomach that arises with a new experience in life, and one wonders why the dormitory was not equipped with bars. In fact, during the first several sessions, there was a considerable falling by the wayside. Nevertheless, as has been the case with students ever since the wandering scholars of medieval times, one soon accepted as an occupational hazard such physical annoyances as the lack of adequate buildings and other accommodations, while the cultivation of mind, character, and the social being were ultimately recognized as the real college life. Moreover, even the most morose introvert on the campus had to admit that the presence of a host of fellow sufferers made almost anything endurable. At any rate, the reminiscent "old grad" who returned to the campus in later days readily admitted that he not only had endured it all but also had liked it!

When students finally found their way to a dormitory room (they had to room about over the countryside for half of the first year), they found a rather forlorn sight: a double bedstead, and nothing else. All the other furnishings were supposed to be brought by the occupants, although later the college would purchase certain items and resell them to the students.<sup>1</sup> In the nineties, when iron bedsteads were introduced, the college had to levy a fee against the students to pay for these ubiquitous products of the machine age.<sup>2</sup>

Each room had a coal fireplace, and the student would have to provide his own heat, a process that involved buying coal from the college and transporting it by scuttle all the way to one's quarters. Needless to say, the rite of maintaining the fires came to be a form of hazing, for the upperclassmen soon found ways of consigning the heat problem to the novices on the campus. Also, the coal scuttle proved to be an excellent noisemaker, particularly during study hours or after taps, and many an exuberant youth found his way into a session before the president and faculty for no less cause than the tossing of a coalscuttle down the corridor. The effect was better if the scuttle were tied to a calf's tail. In the absence of an animal, one could make a passable disturbance by rolling the scuttle down the staircase.<sup>3</sup>

One feature of the coalscuttle era was, of course, the use of kerosene, which was necessary not only in making fires but also in providing light. A number of disciplinary cases arose involving student carelessness in placing the oil cans too near the fireplaces, as the result of which there were several near-disastrous fires.<sup>4</sup> It was, in fact, the fire hazard that Lee used as a strong argument for the introduction of electric lights in the late nineties and that caused Hardy to advocate the installation of steam-heating in the dormitories at the turn of the century.<sup>5</sup>

Certain of the more elementary bathing ceremonies could be performed in the room, provided one did his share of water-carrying, or could get an underling to do

<sup>1</sup> Columbus Patron of Husbandry, July 8, 1881.

<sup>2</sup> Catalogue, 1880-1, 30; Minutes of the Board, June 16, 1890; February 14, June 15, 1891.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, February 17, 1882, November 22, 1888.

<sup>4</sup> Reveille, 1898, 57.

<sup>5</sup> Biennial Report, 1894-6, 8; Commercial Appeal, May 11, 1901.

so; but sooner or later, there would be the necessity of a bath. For such purposes a bath house was maintained, and in 1884 the board solemnly allotted \$300 "for erecting bath tubs...and...to have a pool dug for Students bathing." At the same time the faculty were enjoined "to see that all Students bathe at least once a week."<sup>6</sup> The primitive bathing accommodations continued to prevail until after the turn of the century, although some effort was expended in the 1890's to make the bath house "comfortable for winter use."<sup>7</sup>

The first years were also the age of the privy, or, as the board, on one occasion, in ordering the addition of "six additional seats," described it, "the dry air closet."<sup>8</sup> Not until the turn of the century did modern sanitary and bath arrangements begin to appear at the college. In this development the engineering school was, of course, quite helpful, for here was an opportunity to link theory with practice in real laboratory work. In 1900 provision was made for the installation of a water closet system in the dormitory, to be paid for out of the surplus in the fertilizer funds.<sup>9</sup> In 1901 hot and cold water hydrants were placed on each hall; and in 1910 individual washstands were provided for each room.<sup>10</sup>

The student's day was a busy one. In 1881 the daily program was:

Reveille	5:30 A.M.
Police Call	6:00 A.M.
Breakfast	6:30 A.M.
Guard Mounting	7:00 A.M.
Chapel Exercises	7:45 A.M.
Close of Academic Exercises	12:00
Dinner	12:05 P.M.
Call to Quarters for Study	1:00 P.M.
Call to Work	3:00 P.M.
Recall from Work	6:00 P.M.
Parade	6:30 P.M.
Supper	6:45 P.M.
Evening Call to Quarters to Study	7:45 P.M.
Tattoo	9:30 P.M.
Taps	10:00 P.M.

With minor changes the routine remained largely the same as long as military discipline prevailed on the campus. How the student fitted into this scheme of things may be seen from an informative letter written in the nineties by W. M. Darden, son of the famous Putnam, to an enquirer in London:

...The question you asked is as follows. How do I spend my time during the week. I will take Sunday first. the first thing on Sunday is reviles we then get up and clean up our rooms and next is breakfast after breakfast guard mounting after that is the usual Sunday morning inspection by the Maj of the Batalion or by Lieut White the Comdt of Students. after that is over we go to town to church when we return it is dinner time. and after that we luy [sic] around and talk of the Coming Presidential campaign. 3 oclock is Church and next is supper next is supper [sic] and after supper we go to our rooms and prepare our lessons for Monday. at ten oclock we retire and knock old sleep from 10 until 6 30 a m and on Mondays we first go to breakfast next Chapel exercise next is recitation hours after recitations is dinner and next is work bell for all those who wish to B.C.D. Companies Tuesday is the same as Monday olny [sic] B Company drill and Wedneys C Company drills. Friday is the same as Thursdays only we have batalion drill and rhetorical. and Saturday we can work if we wish too or luy [sic] around and do nothing.<sup>11</sup>

In those days before the facility of travel made possible the week-end hegira, the weekend, particularly Saturday, was the time for stressing the social life. While on Saturday one might work to earn additional funds for board, many of the students preferred to make their presence known about the countryside. There were sometimes

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 18, 1884.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, September 28, 1895.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, June 7, 1897.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, October 19-20, 1900.

<sup>10</sup> *Reflector*, October, 1901; Minutes of the Board, April, 10, 1910.

<sup>11</sup> W. M. Darden to C. T. Montgomery, January 1890, Darden Papers.

hikes and encampments, one such having been provided on Trim Cane Creek, several miles out of Starkville, while Dr. Evans was a student. Hunting was also popular, and at times the entire student body would go rabbit hunting, using sticks to fell the animals, since college regulations did not allow the keeping of firearms by the students.

Although Patrick Fontaine wrote home on one occasion that he had not talked to any girls "since I came from home," the boys seem to have made ample use of week-ends to visit the young ladies of Starkville, particularly those at the Girls' Seminary, which inspired many A. and M. student serenades.<sup>12</sup> There were, of course, a few girls residing on the campus, and after the college became coeducational in July, 1882, a handful of women students were always on hand until the board in 1912 ruled that "any girl student withdrawing now from the college be not permitted to re-enter and that in the future the entrance of girls as students be discouraged."<sup>13</sup> Actually, the women students were so few that they apparently had little effect upon the social life of the campus, although the Southern Livestock Journal had heralded the advent of the women as bringing much good "to all parties."<sup>14</sup>

What proved of superlative value in promoting social life between the sexes was, of course, the establishment of the women's college at Columbus. There were occasional visits to each campus by the entire student body of the two schools, particularly on such occasions as Thanksgiving Day and "Columbian Day."<sup>15</sup> Athletic contests, which were often shifted from the campus to Columbus, were likewise used as a means for bringing the girls to Starkville as guests.<sup>16</sup>

On Sunday, the bill of fare, as we have seen, provided for voluntary attendance at the local Starkville churches, together with services on the campus. Local ministers of the various denominations were invited to conduct the Sunday chapel services, funds being set aside by the board to defray the expenses of these exercises.<sup>17</sup> At first the Sunday service was held in the evening, but later the mid-afternoon was decided upon, although in 1906 Captain Ira Wellborn, the Commandant, complained that the practice of breaking into the afternoon so that there was little time left for recreation made the "service uninteresting to the student body as a whole."<sup>18</sup> Incidentally, it was Wellborn who shocked the campus by insisting upon holding a military dress parade on Sundays!

What week-end activities did not do to liven up the social life of the campus, commencement was certain to do. It would almost appear that the entire year was lived just for the sake of this series of festivities. Each class had a period set aside for oratorical contests and declamations. There were competitive debates between the two literary societies. There was a dress parade and review of the battalion. Then, to top off the entertainment, there was the commencement ball, in which the "youth, beauty and chivalry of Starkville, Columbus, Aberdeen, West Point, Macon, and of many other towns from near and far, made up as elegant and as agreeable a party as could well be assembled."<sup>19</sup> In the mid eighties the music for the ball was usually furnished by "an excellent band from Mobile."<sup>20</sup> When the commencement balls were banned in the late eighties, there was usually an informal reception to take the place of the ball. An annual banquet for the senior class was also introduced in this period. Visiting bands still came to the campus, even if there were not any dancing. In 1888, for example, the "Jackson Gem Band" furnished "delightful music for all the exercises."<sup>21</sup>

Whatever it meant for the students, commencement early came to have especial significance for the alumni, who generally made it a point to attend. In fact, the alumni were exceedingly loyal. Whether they were doctors, lawyers, and merchants, or whether they were agriculturists, engineers, industrial pedagogues, and textile men, their devotion to the Agricultural and Mechanical College seems to have been deep. The organization of A. and M. graduates began in 1885, when R. M. Beattie, of the class of 1883, became the first alumni association president. Biennial meetings

<sup>12</sup> Patrick Fontaine to S. W. Britten, February 25, 1892, Fontaine Papers.

<sup>13</sup> Minutes of the Board, July 4, 1882; November 11, 1912.

<sup>14</sup> Southern Livestock Journal, September 25, 1884.

<sup>15</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, September 26, November 21, 1892, May 10, 1901.

<sup>16</sup> Commercial Appeal, April 5, 1904.

<sup>17</sup> Minutes of the Board, March 28, 1882; March 18, 1884.

<sup>18</sup> Walshall Warden, March 25, 1881; Minutes of the Faculty, December 3, 1906.

<sup>19</sup> Jackson Weekly Clarion, July 12, 1882.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., June 25, 1884; June 24, 1885; June 23, 1886.

<sup>21</sup> Jackson, Weekly Clarion-Ledger, June 28, 1888.

were held up to 1900, after which time annual meetings have occurred, barring emergencies. During the Lee and Hardy eras there was no regular alumni secretary. However, beginning in 1890, each class chose a life secretary.<sup>22</sup> Class reunions, of course, began to be held regularly at commencements, and at the turn of the century an "Alumni Day" was set aside at commencement.<sup>23</sup> In 1913 the Association adopted a constitution and in 1919 county alumni clubs began to be formed.<sup>24</sup>

The alumni stood valiently behind the college during the trying years of the Burkitt attack. They did not, however, fail to raise their voice if they felt things were not going well at the college. In 1892 they delivered themselves of an opinion that the college should not confer a B.S. degree upon applicants who had not taken the regularly prescribed course at A. and M., and a petition to the board to that effect brought a regulation that at least one year of residence would be required of all graduates.<sup>25</sup> In 1896 some of the graduates became disgusted with the "deterioration" in the literary society work on the campus, whereupon the "local alumni" made proposals for improvement, most of which seem to have been carried out.<sup>26</sup> In 1929 it was the alumni who petitioned for restoration of dancing and in 1930 asked for and obtained an annual dance of their own on the campus.<sup>27</sup>

As time passed the necessity of having a full-time secretary for the alumni association became apparent, and in 1919, when J. Wendell Bailey was elected by the alumni as permanent secretary, an office was set up on the campus, and publication of the Alumnus was begun. In 1921 a Register of Graduates was issued. Bailey may truthfully be called the Father of the Alumni Association, for it was his energetic work that did much to preserve the history of the early years of the college. Among his contributions have been A. & M. and the War, a History of the Lee Guards, a History of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the M Book of Athletics, the last being issued in two volumes. He has also assembled material and written the major portion of a history of the College. Despite its varied activities the Alumni Association was still largely financed by its own membership. By 1931 it was obvious that the college itself should contribute to the maintenance of an alumni office. In June, 1931 President Critz recommended the employment of a "Field Representative and Alumni Secretary" by the Board.<sup>28</sup> The office was not created until the 1933-34 session, when Guy Nason was engaged as Alumni Secretary.<sup>29</sup>

In the early years of the college one of the most important phases of the social and of the intellectual life of the college community was speechmaking. Not only were literary societies formed to sponsor this activity, but also the English department was greatly concerned with declamations and addresses -- "rhetoricals," that is. Students were made to take part in these "rhetoricals," which in the early years were practically a weekly affair. Faculty members also were urged to give public addresses regularly. At commencement there was a flood of oratory initiated by student declamations and climaxed by a commencement speaker, who usually outdid all the rest, both in volume and in length of time consumed. L.Q.C. Lamar was on hand for the first commencement, providing the throng with a two-hour discourse.

Student speeches were usually on practical subjects, in accordance with a faculty resolution in 1884 to the effect that three-fourth of such addresses must be upon scientific and industrial topics.<sup>30</sup> Not until the Hardy era did the flood of student commencement oratory begin to recede, and by 1904 student declamation was limited to the Senior Class.<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile, the college sent groups of students to participate in chautauques and prize contests throughout the state.<sup>32</sup> In 1902 a special elocution teacher was employed by the college, and under Hightower a department of Public Discourse was created.<sup>33</sup>

It was but one step from local talent to imported talent, and the beginnings of a college lyceum program were made possible by a faculty decision in 1881 to obtain visiting lecturers.<sup>34</sup> In 1885 the board gave encouragement by urging the bringing to the campus of "experts in the various branches of knowledge."<sup>35</sup> In the

<sup>22</sup> J.W. Bailey, A History of the Alumni Association with a Complete Register of the Graduates, Agricultural College, 1921, 6-7.

<sup>23</sup> Reville, 1898, 46-47.

<sup>25</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 15, 1892.

<sup>27</sup> Minutes of the Board, November 2, 1929;  
Minutes of the Faculty, June 6, 1930.

<sup>29</sup> Catalogue, 1933-34, 11.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., April 8, 1904.

<sup>33</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 3, 1902;

<sup>24</sup> Bailey, op. cit., 7-10.

<sup>26</sup> J. M. White, for the Local Alumni, May 29, 1896, in Faculty Minutes.

<sup>28</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 18, 1931.

<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, April 15, 1884.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., May 8, 1899, et. seq.

<sup>34</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, October 12, 1881.

<sup>35</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 16, 1885.

nineties there was under consideration a formal lyceum program with speakers furnished by booking bureaus, but the faculty decided that the scheme was "not feasible."<sup>36</sup> By the turn of the century, a regular lyceum series had been inaugurated. Among the speakers to visit the campus in the next several decades were Senator Robert M. La Follette, Dr. Wiley, the Pure-Food Expert, Dr. Winfield Scott, the authority on sex hygiene, David Starr Jordan, the peace leader, Judge Ben Lindsey, the juvenile delinquency expert, and Irving S. Cobb, the humorist.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Boston Musical Club, the Chicago Glee Club, the N. Y. Metropolitan Company, the Soellner String Quartet, the William Wade Comic Opera Company, and the Tooley Opera Company. Dramatic presentations were given by the Ben Greet Players, the Scott Players, and the Frieberg Passion Players. Then there were such attractions as Edwin Bush, the magician, Ross Crane, the cartoonist, and something called Howard Russell's Scottish Revue.<sup>37</sup>

In 1939 the college began to charge a fee of \$1 each semester for the support of the lyceum program.<sup>38</sup> Since that time a number of prominent entertainers have been brought to the campus. It has been difficult, however, in many cases to secure programs because of the fact that Pullman facilities are available only so far as Artesia, and unions have often intervened to prevent the dire privation involved in having their members brave the ten miles of wilderness from Artesia to Starkville.

One of the major features of college life in the early decades was the literary societies, whose activities provided as much of the social as of the intellectual. During the first year two of these groups were organized, the Dialectic Society and the Philotechnic Society. "Discussions, preparations of essays and lectures," were the usual bill of fare; and although members were not always agreeable, the faculty insisted that meetings always be open to the public. About two-thirds of the student body affiliated with one or the other of these organizations. Meetings were originally held on Saturday evenings, but it was not long before it was thought wiser to advance the date to Friday.<sup>39</sup> By 1883 both societies had begun the collection of libraries for use by members.<sup>40</sup>

Meetings of the literary societies were held in special rooms provided by the college and equipped by the organizations, the first meeting places being the section rooms, until 1882, when the board fitted out quarters on the second floor of the mess hall.<sup>41</sup> In the nineties more elaborate quarters were provided. The Philotechnic Society erected for itself a "large hall" for its functions, and the Dialectic Society was presented by the college with a "beautiful hall."<sup>42</sup> During the session of 1884-5, the Dialectic Society began the publication of the Dialectic Reflector, a monthly which provided college news and essays on "educational, literary, and industrial topics."<sup>43</sup> Although the faculty recommended that both societies sponsor the publication, it was not until the session of 1887-8 that the monthly was issued under joint sponsorship, at which time it became known as the College Reflector.<sup>44</sup>

The literary societies were often the sponsors of a variety of public entertainments, although at times their frequent requests to engage in these performances in the city were rejected by the faculty.<sup>45</sup> As has been seen, the societies also were supposed to perform at commencement, but the results were so unsatisfactory that on March 12, 1883 the college threatened to abolish the practice unless the organizations should present "a suitable programme of exercises at the next meeting of the Faculty." Although the literary society program was given in 1883 and for several years thereafter, it was eventually dropped. In fact, by the late nineties, the alumni were becoming disturbed over the fact that the work of the two societies had "deteriorated," and that "little interest seems now to be manifest in these organizations."<sup>46</sup>

In 1897 the societies were being heard from, but unfavorably. Two members published articles critical of the college authorities in the Reflector.<sup>47</sup> Since there was some

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, October 3, 17, 1892.

<sup>38</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 6, 1939.

<sup>39</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, November 28, 1881; Catalogue, 1880-1, 29; 1882-3, 33.

<sup>42</sup> Reveille, 1898.

<sup>44</sup> I b i d., 1887-1888, 25.

<sup>45</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, January 29, March 20, 1883.

<sup>47</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, March 22, 1897.

<sup>37</sup> Reflector, Oct. 18, 1913, Oct. 31, 1914, Oct. 9, 1915, Jan. 29, 1916, April 5, 1921, Oct. 17, 1923, Oct. 8, 1924.

<sup>40</sup> Catalogue, 1882-3, 33.

<sup>41</sup> Minutes of the Board, September 18, 1882.

<sup>43</sup> Catalogue, 1884-5, 37; Minutes of the Faculty, December 15, 1884.

<sup>46</sup> Resolution of the Local Alumni, May 29, 1896, in Faculty Minutes.

division of faculty opinion regarding the punishment of the offenders, they were dismissed with the privilege of receiving their diplomas the following June. Certain of the professors on this occasion divulged the vote on the dismissal question, whereupon Lee dismissed two members of his faculty, D. C. Hull and H. E. Weed, and obtained the resignations of two others, Director Tracy of the Experiment Station, and Professor Creelman, of the Biology Department.<sup>48</sup> In 1903 another complaint arose over "objectionable features"<sup>49</sup> of the magazine, but this time a settlement was made without the rolling of heads.

In spite of their vicissitudes the societies continued to exist, and as the enrollment grew under Hardy and the scope of the Reflector expanded, the demand arose for additional literary groups, even though it was admitted in 1904 that not over 120 students were members of the two existing organizations.<sup>50</sup> It would appear that by this time one of the major difficulties in maintaining the societies was the increasing lack of interest among the upperclassmen. Also, the Reflector complained in March, 1906 that the faculty were neglecting the societies.<sup>51</sup> Public attendance upon the meetings had dropped also. In the good old days of the nineties there had even been special trains from Starkville, and "a number of Ladies and Gentlemen came out."<sup>52</sup> Perhaps the difficulties encountered by the special train might have discouraged public attendance, for it was occasions such as this that moved the boys to their favorite prank of greasing the railway tracks -- a stunt that was so often pulled that in March, 1902 the Reflector considered it news that at a recent meeting of the Dialectic Society "the track was not greased."<sup>53</sup>

By 1906 the two old societies boasted around 100 members each, which was certainly too many for words -- words being the chief reason for their existence.<sup>54</sup> Accordingly, in October thirteen sophomores organized their own "Debating Club," naming it for the head of the English Department, Dr. Magruder. Then, in November, 1906 a group of nine upperclassmen organized the Hull Literary Club, named for Professor Hull of the Department of Industrial Pedagogy.<sup>55</sup> Four years later the two new groups were swallowed up in Greek terminology, and two new names appeared to accompany the Dialectics and the Philotechnics: the Philomathean and the Philalethian societies.<sup>56</sup> When Lee Hall was completed, the old societies were given quarters in the new building, while the two recently organized groups were given the rooms vacated by the Dialectics and the Philotechnics.<sup>57</sup> At the end of the Hardy era the literary societies were stronger than ever; and in 1912 a new group, the Demostheneans, appeared to add its voice to that of the four groups already in operation.<sup>58</sup>

Although subsequently the literary societies declined, particularly after the coming of social and honorary fraternities in the late twenties, there is no doubt that in the early years the literary societies proved to be no less useful than ornamental. In a time when fraternities were under the ban, these organizations provided some of the social life and public contacts that the students not only craved but also needed. Moreover, such groups provided training in public speaking in a day when any gentleman, whether he were legislator or farmer, needed to be able to stand on his feet and talk at the drop of an introduction. They enabled the boys to learn both the decorum and the use of the weapons in verbal combat. They also made possible the Reflector, a magazine which both in appearance and in the major portion of its content, aped the polite literary collegiate publications of that day. Yet, with increasing regularity, it also chose to add to its bill of fare college news items, athletic pages, and sections devoted to agriculture and industry -- all this in spite of a considerable degree of nose-holding from Oxford, whose "literary" magazine was intended to be literary and nothing else.<sup>59</sup> Not until the session of 1915-16 did the student body take over the publication of the Reflector, which at the same time became a weekly.

<sup>48</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, March 29, 1897; Minutes of the Board, April 12-13, 1897; June 7, 1897.

<sup>49</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, January 23, 30, 1903.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., March, 1906, 21-22.

<sup>53</sup> Reflector, March, 1902, 24.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., November, 1906, 17-18.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., September, 1910, 35-36.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., March, 1912, 326-327.

<sup>50</sup> Reflector, April, 1904, 21.

<sup>52</sup> Patrick Fontaine to Mrs. S.C. Fontaine, February 28, 1892, Fontaine Papers.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., December, 1906, 29-32; January, 1908, 182-3.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., March, 1911, 303; 306.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., January, 1902, 4-5, 17.

The Reveille was also initiated by the literary societies, but subsequently taken over by the senior class and the Student Association. The 1898 issue, which came out amid the confusion of the Spanish-American War, was edited by M. W. Chapman, W. E. Hearon, T. P. Guyton, and G. H. Alford. It was not until 1906 that the performance was repeated with J. H. Belford as editor-in-chief, after which time the year book appeared regularly, not, however, without the inevitable difficulties that the publication of such a volume entails.

A host of clubs of sundry descriptions added their bit to the professional and social atmosphere of the campus. During the non-fraternity years such a development was inevitable. There was, for example, the German Club, organized in 1901. It had nothing to do with the speaking of German but with the dancing of it, for there was a popular dance by that name at the turn of the century, when this group was organized. The motto was "Don't go home till morning," and membership was determined by secret ballot. In other words, it was a social fraternity in all but name.<sup>60</sup> In fact, on one occasion the great sociability of the German Club aroused considerable faculty ire when, after a dance in Starkville had been interrupted by the cutting off of the lights, the entourage adjourned to the college chapel, where, in spite of contrary regulations of the trustees, the dance was completed.<sup>61</sup>

The German Club was by no means the only one of its kind. There were also such groups as the Elysian Club, the Cotillion Club, and the Skiddo Club. Members of these, together with certain of the German Club boys, eventually pooled their social talents to form the twenty-member exclusive "Collegian Club," which in 1908 was apparently dominating campus social life.<sup>62</sup> Two years later this group had apparently disbanded and the dominant "hop" furnisher for the campus was another Cotillion Club.<sup>63</sup> Meanwhile, a host of less frivolous groups had appeared, not the least of which were the "County" clubs, of which there were 28 by December 1910.<sup>64</sup>

Military organizations also flourished. The oldest was, of course, the Lee Guards, organized in 1885 and named for the first president of the college. While mainly a fancy drill company, the Guards, who were generally described as the "Crack Military Organization of the State," were also a bit fancy in their social graces.<sup>65</sup> In 1904 the George Rifles were organized, honoring J. E. George; and although they had barely begun to drill they came in second at a competitive drill held in Jackson in December, 1904.<sup>66</sup> In October, 1908 another group, the Mississippi Sabre Company appeared, and in 1912 a company known as the German Regulars was in existence.<sup>67</sup> There was constant criticism of these military companies by the faculty, who insisted that too often the only qualification for membership was that of "being a nice fellow socially."<sup>68</sup>

A variety of professional clubs were also organized. Under Lee there had been horticultural, agricultural, and natural history groups, together with a Society of Natural History and a literary group known as the Shakespearean Fable.<sup>69</sup> Under Hardy there was a rash of such clubs: an Engineering Club, affiliated with the Mississippi Association of Student Engineers; a John Sharp Williams' Club of Economic and Social Science; a dramatic club known as the "Cap and Balls;" a Textile Club; an Educational Club; and a French Club (to speak, not dance).<sup>70</sup>

A short-lived Glee Club was organized in 1898 by J. E. George with both vocal and instrumental activities on its bill of fare, the serenading of the ladies being its major interest.<sup>71</sup> Soon dormant, the voice of the Glee Club remained silent for years, but except for occasional lapses it has been a regular campus organization since the twenties. A "Brass College Band" appeared in 1905, soon becoming one of the most active organizations on the campus.<sup>72</sup> It has gone on concert tours, it has

<sup>60</sup> Reflector, February, 1902, 26-28; March, 1902, 21.

<sup>62</sup> Reflector, October, 1908, 75.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., 170.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid., January 1905, 15.

<sup>68</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, May 29, 1911.

<sup>70</sup> Reflector, November, 1905, 5-6; March, 1907, 24; November, 1909, 27; March, 1910, 23; January, 1912, 196-7.

<sup>72</sup> Minutes of the Board, December 2, 1904.

<sup>61</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, Oct. 2, 4, 21, 1912.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., January, 1910, 32; December, 1910, 169.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid., November, 1903, 16.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., November, 1908, 73-4; January, 1912, 197.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid., October 6, 13, 1884; November 7, 14, 1887; January 27, 1896.

<sup>71</sup> Reveille, 1898.

served at patriotic functions, and it has been a faithful adjunct of the football team. In 1929, the band affiliated with Kappa Kappa Psi, National honorary band fraternity.<sup>73</sup> In the thirties state band contests and an annual "band clinic" were held on the campus.<sup>74</sup>

One of the by-products of the college musical organizations has been the inevitable dance band — sometimes bands. In 1928, for example, there was an orchestra bearing the intriguing name, "Aggie and His Six Aggs."<sup>75</sup>

With the growth of musical interests there came a demand for college songs adapted to the local scene. In 1919 A. & M. boys at Camp Taylor were humiliated that they had no college song of their own to sing in the strange land while other collegians taunted them by asking for the "A. & M. College Song" to no avail.<sup>76</sup> As a result, the "M" Club offered a trophy for the best alma mater, and the faculty solemnly agreed to allow "not less than one (1) nor more than three (3) credits" for the winning composer.<sup>77</sup> By 1920 the contest was under way, and on April 30 the Glee Club sang the tunes submitted and the judges decided in favor of "Maroon and White" by T. P. Haney.<sup>78</sup> In 1930 the student body formally adopted this tune.<sup>79</sup>

A host of ephemeral clubs have appeared over the years. In 1898, there was a P.B. Club, purportedly organized "in the early days of the college," its sole purpose being amusement. It was largely dedicated to the promotion of horseplay in the dormitory, its officers consisting of "pillow swingers, humpers, toe-jerkers, and a "string attacher and grand giver of the signal for action." Its members were not supposed to be found wanting "except when the commandant or the officer-of-the-day wanted them."<sup>80</sup> In similar vein, the 1906 Reveille lists an Ancient Order of Smartalecks and a Mullet Chasers Club.<sup>81</sup> Similarly, the 1909 Reveille pictured eight members of an Octopus Club and exhibited six smartly clad members of the Gun Club, complete with spats and turned-up pants cuffs.<sup>82</sup>

Under Hardy the organizing of clubs reached the epidemic stage, and in 1911 a special committee reported that not less than 75 were in existence at the college. The same group found that in general the clubs engaged in "too many social functions," that there was too much of a tendency among them toward "exclusiveness," and that the predominance of "pleasure" clubs tended to weaken the literary and technical organizations. As a result of the report of this committee, the faculty established specific requirements for membership and required all clubs to be chartered by the administration.<sup>83</sup>

In January, 1912 a list of campus organizations approved by the Committee on Student Organizations, which grew out of the investigation, gives a total of 41 county clubs, together with certain other organizations not mentioned elsewhere, including, the Richton Club, the First Sergeants Club, the Louisiana Club, the Cosmopolitan Club, and the Mississippi Heights Academy Club. Those rejected by the committee included a Tall Men's Club, the Normal Club, the Junior Club, the Pittsboro High School Club, the Capitol City Club (which was told to call itself the Hinds County Club if it wanted to be recognized), Ye Rounders Club, the Octopus Club, the Inter Nos Club, the Two Cities Club, and several county clubs.<sup>84</sup> Even under regulation, the campus was swarming with organizations. In 1917, while Smith was president, there was even a "Smiths Club."<sup>85</sup> Only the advent of fraternities in the late twenties halted this trend.

The struggle to establish Greek Letter fraternities at the college was a long and bitter one. In fact, before the institution was a decade old these organizations came under the official ban. The regulations of 1887 provided that "all students who shall combine or agree together to hold no friendly or social intercourse with another, and any student who shall endeavor to persuade others to enter into such combinations or agreement, shall be dismissed or otherwise less severely punished."<sup>86</sup>

<sup>73</sup> Commercial Appeal, February 2, 1930.

<sup>74</sup> Jackson Daily News, January 22, 1928.

<sup>77</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, October 29, 1919.

<sup>79</sup> Commercial Appeal, April 10, 1930.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 1906, 135, 140.

<sup>83</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, May 29, 1911.

<sup>85</sup> Commercial Appeal, November 14, 1917.

<sup>74</sup> Commercial Appeal, February 21, April 10, 24, May 1, 2, 1935.

<sup>76</sup> Reflector, January 18, 1919.

<sup>78</sup> Reflector, January 24, March 20, 1920.

<sup>80</sup> Reveille, 1898.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid., 1909, 278, 279.

<sup>84</sup> Reflector, January, 1912, 196-7.

<sup>86</sup> Regulations, 1887, 21-22.

The matriculation pledge also forbade membership in "secret organizations."<sup>87</sup> Regulations notwithstanding, fraternal bodies had come into existence by the 1890's, the most active one being Sigma Alpha Epsilon. At first, Lee investigated and was able to prove nothing. However, learning subsequently that the fraternity charter had been returned, he felt that the question and been settled once and for all. Such was not to be the case, for in 1892 the S.A.E. fraternity was again active, splitting the Senior class and making inroads upon the literary societies. While he was ready to resort to dismissal, Lee attempted to dissolve the group quietly in order to save the offenders.<sup>88</sup>

While Lee did manage to have the charter of the S.A.E. group repealed, the anti-fraternity men in the student body were determined to have the regulations enforced; and although Lee hoped to conciliate the two sides, some few of the fraternity men were determined to fight it out. The upshot was a faculty trial in the autumn of 1892, whereupon fourteen members of the fraternity were dismissed.<sup>89</sup> Lee did not, however, close the door finally to the offenders, and the faculty informed them that they might re-enter in January, 1893, every member of the three upper classes having signed a petition asking for the return of the S.A.E. members. Reinstatement followed, and in 1893 six of the seniors who had been shipped, one of whom was William Flowers Hand, were allowed by the board to graduate after taking a solemn pledge that they would "at all times hereafter use our utmost efforts to break up forever at the Mississippi A. & M. College and at Starkville, Mississippi, the fraternity or society known as the S.A.E., also any similar one; that we will not persuade, nor permit so far as we are able, any person attending said College, or intending to attend the same, to join such fraternity or society; but will in good faith aid and assist the faculty and trustees of said College in suppressing said fraternity or society in said College or among the students thereof, and in preventing the establishment of a new chapter of the same or of any other organization violative of the rules and regulations of said college." The signed pledge was read before "the whole body of students of the College."<sup>90</sup> The board even went further and forbade membership in fraternities to anyone who was a "professor, tutor, student or employee" of the college, and at the beginning of the following session a pledge was to be exacted from "each tutor, student and employee" that he would not join, or encourage, any fraternal body on the campus and would report the existence of any violation of which he knew. Exception was made by the board to "any of the well known charitable or benevolent orders to which all good citizens without distinction of class or occupation are admitted."<sup>91</sup>

Actually, the fraternity question was a more serious one at the University at that time than it was at the A. & M. College. But the issue continued to be agitated for years to come, particularly as no matter what the regulations were, students inevitably fell into "groups" which sooner or later partook of many of the features of a fraternity. As we have seen, this was particularly true of the various military and dance organizations that flourished at the college after the turn of the century. Nevertheless, the institution still followed the anti-fraternity line, and we find the Reflector, in 1902 soundly denouncing Ole Miss students for spending "their time and money in the Greek letter fraternity halls," and enjoining them to "pluck from your hearts the rotten cancer of fraternityism."<sup>92</sup> The students of A. and M. were to see fraternities abolished at Ole Miss in 1912, after an endless fight over the matter in the legislature.<sup>93</sup> Nevertheless, from the list of clubs at the college deprived of recognition by the Committee on Student Organizations in 1912, it is apparent that the college administration was fighting a losing battle against human nature. There was even a threat of legal action by the disappointed membership, but to no avail.<sup>94</sup>

The campaign against fraternities merely served to popularize such quasi-fraternal organizations as the George Rifles, the Lee Guards, the German Club and the Sabre Company, which was revived in 1913 after a brief eclipse.<sup>95</sup> By 1917 the military companies were under the scrutiny of the administration, and the board ordered the president of the college "to inquire into the rules and regulations" of the George Rifles and Lee Guards.<sup>96</sup> Meanwhile, the companies were going their

<sup>87</sup> Ibid., 5.

<sup>89</sup> Jackson Weekly Clarion, December 1, 1892; Minutes of the Faculty, October 31, 1892.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid., June 21, 1893, June 21, 1893.

<sup>93</sup> Commercial Appeal, February 22, 1912; Minutes of the Board, September 16, 1912.

<sup>96</sup> Minutes of the Board, April 14, 1917.

<sup>88</sup> Letter of Lee, March 1, 1892, President's Letter Book.

<sup>90</sup> Minutes of the Board, June 20, 1893.

<sup>92</sup> Reflector, January, 1902, 5.

<sup>94</sup> Commercial Appeal, September 17, 1912.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid., November 2, 1913.

merry way, and in April, 1918, while the first world war was in full swing, the thirty-third annual ball of the Lee Guards took place amid great social splendor, with 400 invited guests from towns as far away as Memphis and New Orleans.<sup>97</sup>

The election of Lee Russell as governor in 1919 brought a man into power who as a champion of the common man was determined to cut out root and branch all forms of social pretense and fraternalism in the colleges. As we shall see later, a campaign against dancing occurred at the same time and under the same egis. In 1920 an investigation was made, and as a result in September strict rules were established by the board requiring that such organizations as existed should base membership upon merit in scholarship, in deportment, and in the field of specialty of each particular group. Moreover, organizational rules had to be reviewed by and receive the approval of the president of the college and the executive committee of the Board of Trustees. In no case should organizations partake of any of the features of "secret societies." Moreover, any students or groups of students who had violated the rules against secret organizations were to be summarily expelled.<sup>98</sup> Finally, in June, 1921 the George Rifles and Lee Guards were abolished, and in July the board passed resolutions condemning the outlawed organizations for "fostering social and class distinctions that have no place in a democratic Institution..." Moreover, in the future no organization might exist whose purpose was "social or semi-social" or whose membership was based on "social fitness."<sup>99</sup>

The road back was slow but sure, for it was more difficult to destroy fraternities than to regulate them. In 1923 the president reported the receipt of petitions for reorganization but would not recommend approval. In 1925 reinstatement was again requested whereupon the Lee Guards were given "one last chance to live up to their constitution."<sup>100</sup> The next step, of course, was to let the bars down to all social organizations and restore the Greek Letter groups. In 1926 after legislative action legalizing social fraternities, upwards of 600 students petitioned the president for the establishment of social fraternities, and upon recommendation of President Walker, the board gave its approval.<sup>101</sup> The faculty promptly set up regulations, and fraternities began to be organized.<sup>102</sup> The old military organizations soon became affiliated with Greek Letter fraternities, the Lee Guards becoming Kappa Alphas in 1927 and the George Rifles becoming Sigma Chis in 1938. By 1950 there were 13 national social fraternities, two national sororities, 19 honorary national groups, and one local honorary group.<sup>103</sup>

Dancing has always been one of the perpetual worries of the college administration, even as far back as the commencement balls of the 1880s. In 1884 the local clergy were petitioning the faculty to abolish the annual ball.<sup>104</sup> Apparently the opposition arose in part from the practice of using the so-called College Chapel for the dances. In 1886 the Board ruled that the "character of the social entertainments in the Chapel and their management be left in the wisdom and discretion of the Faculty."<sup>105</sup> The faculty authorized the ball for the following year, but recommended that the name of the chapel be changed to "College Hall."<sup>106</sup> Finally, the board, unable to resist the pressure any longer, voted in 1887 to dispense with the commencement dances after that year and announced that "hereafter no Ball of any character" would be permitted "on the College grounds," and further ruled "that dancing shall not hereafter be taught among the Students of this College."<sup>107</sup>

Every year thereafter the students petitioned regularly for the restoration of the annual dance, but the function was not resumed until 1892. It would appear that not the least objection to the ball was the fact that it was more or less the special concern of the fraternities on the campus; and the settlement of a crisis in 1892 involving the sub rosa existence of these groups seems to have been the occasion for resuming the balls.<sup>108</sup> Meanwhile, the college ban on dancing had not been taken

<sup>97</sup> Commercial Appeal, April 5, 1918.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid., June 27, July 1, 1931.

<sup>101</sup> Mississippi Laws, 1926, ; Minutes of the Faculty, May 26, 1926; East Mississippi Times, July 2, 1926.

<sup>104</sup> Minutes of the Board, May 7, 1884.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid., June 14, 1886.

<sup>107</sup> Minutes of the Board, July 5, 1887.

<sup>98</sup> Minutes of the Board, September 18, December 11, 1920.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid., June 12, 21, 1935; Biennial Report, 1923, 10; 1925, 17; Commercial Appeal, June 18, 1925.

<sup>102</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, September 29, 1926.

<sup>103</sup> Commercial Appeal, December 7, 1927; Catalogue, 1950, 37-38.

<sup>106</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, February 28, May 16, 1887.

<sup>108</sup> Letter to John M. Stone, March 12, 1892, President's Letter Book; Minutes of the Board, June 14, 1892.

too seriously, for board regulations to the contrary, a student admitted that he had been "taking dancing lessons ever since I have been here, and can dance the polka and schottisch and waltz to perfection." He and a number of other boys had been taking lessons at 80¢ a month, devoting forty minutes of every evening except Sunday to this diversion.<sup>109</sup>

The end of the Hardy era, with its numerous dancing clubs, saw a revival of the movement to restrain dancing at the college. In 1913 rumors of indecent dancing at the Oktibbeha Club Rooms in Starkville caused the faculty to make an extensive study of the problem. In most cases, the criticism was of the "subscription dances," which were not club-sponsored but put on by private individuals, sometimes students, seeking to make money. With little or no sense of responsibility on the part of the sponsors, these dances degenerated into exhibitions of "the ultra-modern, so-called 'animal' dances" that were popular at that time.<sup>110</sup> These consisted of the turkey trot, the grizzly bear, the bunny hug, with the tango thrown in for no reason at all. To complicate things further the local W.C.T.U. sent vigorous protests to the College authorities. Finally, in an effort to receive assistance from the town authorities, an appeal was made to the aldermen to help clean up these dances, which had become "a menace to the moral tone of the community." Accordingly, an ordinance was dutifully passed to that end.<sup>111</sup>

Meanwhile, student ire had become aroused, and numerous protests were made by indignant youths who resented the insinuation that their dances were immodest.<sup>112</sup> Promptly taking the situation into their own hands, they invited the W.C.T.U. to "act as chaperons" to the dances in question.<sup>113</sup> Also, a committee of officers from the college military organizations issued a "card" to the effect that they were "willing to cooperate" with the citizenry in preventing the "late fancy or suggestive dances."<sup>114</sup>

Before the excitement was over the Board of Trustees was called into session and in June, 1914 an order was issued placing all dances under the "absolute direction and control" of the president. Also all dances participated in by students were required to take place on the campus, and not more than three "dances or balls" might be given in any college year.<sup>115</sup> In carrying out the board's injunction, the faculty felt obliged to allow one "open" dance a semester, even though this cut into the activities of the four military organizations.<sup>116</sup>

The dance issue was not ended with the controversy of 1913-14. In April, 1920 the board was again moved to action. It ordered that dances be "properly and amply" chaperoned and that "nothing be tolerated which does not conform with the highest degree of refinement."<sup>117</sup> In September the board, complaining of excessive expenditures on student dances and the existence of "gross evils" at times in connection with these activities, decided that dancing interfered with "the purpose and function" of the state colleges and was "demoralizing alike to those who attend the dances and to those who observe them, and is a vicious and unjustifiable temptation to extravagance and evils upon the part of the innocent and unwary." Consequently in the future any dances would have to be given under very strict rules of conduct, attendance, and time allowed, and all plans for managing such would have to meet the approval of the faculty committee on student activities, the president of the school, and the executive committee of the Board of Trustees. The limit of three dances set up in 1914 was retained, and a dance was defined as an "occasion beginning no earlier than 7 P.M. at a given date and closing not later than 2 A.M. the following date, provided that in no cases shall dancing on Saturday night continue later than 10:30 P.M."<sup>118</sup> Student reaction to the board order was somewhat violent at Ole Miss, where Governor Russell was burned in effigy. At A. & M. College the reaction was less violent, but student feeling was high. The only concession made by the board, however, was to lengthen by one hour the time limit on Saturday night dances.<sup>119</sup>

The dance issue continued to smolder in the next few years, and the revival of the ancient fraternity controversy in the twenties served as a natural concomitant

<sup>109</sup>Undated letter in Fontaine Papers, about 1892.

<sup>111</sup>Ibid., December 15, 1913; Commercial Appeal, January 8, 1914.

<sup>113</sup>Commercial Appeal, January 22, 1914.

<sup>114</sup>Ibid., February 9, 1914.

<sup>116</sup>Minutes of the Faculty, September 21, 1914.

<sup>118</sup>Ibid., September 18, 1920.

<sup>110</sup>Minutes of the Faculty, October 13, December 8, 15, 1913.

<sup>112</sup>East Mississippi Times, January 16, 1914; Reflector, January 17, 1914; Commercial Appeal, January 18, 1914.

<sup>115</sup>Minutes of the Board, June 4, 1914.

<sup>117</sup>Minutes of the Board, April 13, 1920.

<sup>119</sup>Ibid., November 2, 1920.

to the dancing problem. Efforts to secure a total ban on dancing failed. In June, 1922 J. S. Haverton, one of the strong Russell supporters on the Board, failed to secure a second to a motion banning public dances at the colleges.<sup>120</sup> In his biennial report for 1923 Hull complained not of the students but of drunken visitors and asked that henceforth outsiders other than "young lady friends" be excluded.<sup>121</sup> Finally, in 1924, after an unsavory incident in connection with a dance in the gymnasium, a ban on dancing was unanimously voted by the faculty.<sup>122</sup> The Reflector vainly suggested that the faculty was going beyond its authority, the Board of Trustees not having voted to ban dancing entirely.<sup>123</sup> Efforts in the next session to secure a change of attitude on the part of the faculty failed.<sup>124</sup> Meanwhile, of course, dancing went right on beyond the bounds of the campus, with perhaps no little indulgence in "animal" dances augmented by the latest dance fads of the new jazz age. Finally, in 1929 the alumni took up the cudgels in favor of the restoration of dancing. The board referred the decision to the president and the faculty in November, and after prolonged deliberation, the faculty decided on June 6, 1930 to restore dancing by a vote of 21 to 7.<sup>125</sup>

#### TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

<sup>120</sup> Ibid., June 20, 1922.

<sup>122</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, February 6, 1924.

<sup>124</sup> Minutes of the Faculty, January 24, 1925.

<sup>121</sup> Biennial Report, 1923, 19.

<sup>123</sup> Reflector, February 27, 1924.

<sup>125</sup> Minutes of the Board, November 2, 1929; Minutes of the Faculty, November 6, 1929, February 12, June 6, 1930; Commercial Appeal, November 3, 1929.

#### POPULATION TRENDS IN MISSISSIPPI

(Continued from page 7)

fire protection, and other municipal services, are able to attract and accommodate new industries or expand existing industries when the opportunity arises without the need for excessive expenditures to expand or develop these facilities.

The preliminary releases from the census enumeration indicate that Mississippi has made considerable progress toward the attainment of a better balance between agriculture and industry. Judged by the comparative rates of population change the southern counties of the state have made greater progress in this direction than the remaining counties. This is due, in part, to the fact that intermediate and large centers were already established in this section and were better able to take advantage of opportunities for expansion resulting from the development of defense and war industries in the early part of the decade. Population gain, whether for a county, a state, or a city, is accompanied by a need for adjustment and the need for a re-orientation in the way of living. Urban living is different from rural living and the transition from one to the other is seldom attained without some maladjustment.

## NOTES

### EXTRACTS AND ABSTRACTS

#### *A Survey of Student Personnel Research in the Southern Region*

by

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Research Specialist  
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**NOTE:** The following study by Professor Scott is to be presented at the American College Personnel Association Convention in Chicago on March 29. Professor Scott's findings will be discussed in connection with a symposium on the subject "Current Research in Student Personnel Work."

Very often the counselor or personnel specialist raises the question, "How do I know that I am meeting the real needs of young men and women in this institution of higher education?" In the field of human relations, evaluating the success or the lack of success in meeting human needs in respect to personnel is highly complex. To know what has been achieved and how best to achieve certain goals or objectives is very essential for the continuous improvement of a student personnel program.

In the survey the author has attempted first, to discover what has been done and what is being done in student personnel research in the southern region; second, to reveal what participating institutions feel are the most necessary areas of additional research; third, to indicate the trends of organization of personnel programs.

On October 18, 1950, a letter of explanation and a questionnaire was sent to all institutions of the Southern Region who were listed in the College Blue Book as having an enrollment of 1000 or more students (102 white and 14 negro institutions, of which 75 white and 7 negro institutions responded.) To further validate the finding of the survey, a copy of the same questionnaire was sent to 35 colleges and universities (22 responded) selected at random outside the southern region. A follow-up letter was sent whenever necessary in late November and early December. The requested information was then assembled during Christmas Vacation and ready of the completion in January, 1951.

The total number of research studies reported is 185. The following table describes the research areas, the extent of research that has been done, the types of institutions who reported, and their respective enrollment.

Areas of Research	South Region- White	South-Negro	Random Sample
Housing	4	0	2
Food Service	1	0	0
Student Activities	7	1	4
Testing	29	1	14
Remedial Work with Students	5	0	9
Development of Leadership and Responsibility	1	1	2
Counseling	8	1	9
Discipline	0	0	0
Hospital Services	1	0	0
Follow-up Studies on Graduates	7	1	3
Cost of Personnel Services	0	0	0
Placement and Employment	6	2	3
Scholarship	13	1	6
Drop-outs or Withdrawals	10	0	5
Student Absences	6	0	1
Evaluation	11	1	3
Student-Faculty Relations	0	0	1
Admissions	1	0	1
Foreign Students	0	0	3
	<u>110</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>66</u>

#### Types of Institutions who replied

University	26	2	15
Teachers College	8	0	1
Technical School	7	0	1
Liberal Arts	13	2	3
Liberal Arts & Teachers College	17	2	1
Liberal Arts & Technical School	2	1	1
Failed to indicate	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>22</u>

Distribution of Enrollment	South Region-White	South-Negro	Random Sample
1000-3000	41	7	5
3000-5000	9	0	4
5000- 10,000	12	0	4
10,000 up	3	0	8
Failed to indicate	10	0	1
	<u>75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>22</u>

Eight institutions suggested that further research was needed in the area of "Evaluation of Total Personnel Program"; six, "Evaluation of Counseling Services"; five, "Remedial Facilities for Students", and "Academic Failures"; four, "Dormitory Counseling" and "Evaluation of Orientation Programs"; three, "Faculty Counseling", "Guidance through Groups", and "Evaluation of Residence Hall Living in Terms of Leadership, Training, Social Adjustment and Group Dynamics"; two, "Drop-outs or Withdrawals", "Follow-up Studies on Graduates", "Testing", "Improvement of Faculty-Student Relations", "Setting up Criteria to Determine Abilities Needed on the Part of Students to Continue on their Given Course of Study", and "Attitude of Faculty toward Student Personnel Work". Only one institution suggested each of the fifty-three other topics as being in need of research.

In answering the question, "Are the student personnel functions in your institution centralized under any one or combination of the above listed titles for purposes of reporting to the Dean or President of the institution? If so, please give the title...", the data of Southern Region reveal that 42 white and 5 negro institutions have their personnel functions centralized while 16 of the Random Sample Group indicate Centralization. Non-centralized programs were described by 30 white and 2 negro institutions in the South and by six in the Random Sample. To summarize the titles of those who are centralized, the following table has been prepared:

Titles	South-White	South-Negro	R. Sample
DEAN STATUS (Students, Men, Student Personnel Women, College, Student Affairs, Student Life, Student Personnel Services.)	27	2	16
DIRECTOR STATUS (Student Personnel, Student Life, Student Guidance, Student Personnel and Guidance, Student Guidance and Personnel, Personnel, and Personnel Director)	14	3	1
VICE-PRESIDENT (-and Student Services, -and in charge of Student Relations)	1	0	1
	<u>42</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>

**CONCLUSION:** The replies from 75 white and 7 negro institutions in the Southern Region indicate a keen interest in and awareness of the value and need for research in the area of student personnel in higher education. Many of the responses revealed that careful, though not elaborate, instruments and techniques of research were being employed. There was evidence that research was not being done solely for the sake of research but was undertaken to solve local problems with the end in view of better meeting the needs of students. The most frequent evaluative instrument used in measuring student reaction to student personnel programs was the questionnaire. In measuring the effectiveness of testing in the student personnel program, the most frequent technique was correlation of test results with scholastic progress.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** In the light of national trends in student personnel research and the data compiled from this survey which mainly devoted its attention to the Southern Region, the writer recommends that more attention should be directed to research in (1) cost of personnel services, (2) meeting the needs of foreign students, (3) student-faculty relationships, (4) discipline-approach on the part of a student personnel program, (5) development of leadership and responsibility on the part of students, (6) food services and (7) hospital services.

## *Farm Equipment Operating Costs in the Delta*

by

GRADY B. CROWE

NOTE: Mr. Crowe is Agricultural Economist, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, located at the Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville, Mississippi. This abstract was printed in Mississippi Farm Research for January, 1951.

The extent to which tractors can be effectively used on cotton farms depends upon the successful design and manufacture of auxiliary equipment machinery to be used with them.

Economic studies of mechanization frequently are limited to major power units and key machines. Stalk cutters, middlebusters, planters, cultivators and other such equipment, however, cannot be neglected if the economic implications of mechanizing cotton farms are to be fully understood. Costs and performance of such equipment, in addition to being important considerations in their own right, have a definite influence on com-

parative power costs. Inefficiencies in the use of auxiliary equipment can do much to reduce the economies growing out of the shift to tractor power.

It is the purpose of this report to present costs and performance data on some of the so called "minor" items of machinery and equipment used on mechanized farms. It is felt that this information is valuable in pointing out the significance of these items in production costs and that it will be useful in preparing operating budgets and determining customs charges.

The data upon which this report is based were collected by personal interview with Delta farm operators and managers. Farms included in the survey were selected for geographical representation and were distributed throughout the range in size of business. Information presented covers the crop year 1949.

This report is a part of a larger study of cotton mechanization and its implications being conducted jointly by the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It is supported in part by funds appropriated under the Research and Marketing Act.

Annual operating costs for selected tractor machines were one of the problems studied. While the hay balers and corn picker included in this study cannot be classified as "minor" equipment, information on them is presented in order to round out machinery costs for the entire farm. In practically all cases, annual depreciation constituted the largest item of costs, ranging from 20 percent of total annual costs for some machines to 70 percent for others. In fact, depreciation accounted for 40 percent or more of total annual costs on 75 percent of the machines listed. Repairs and interest on investment were of considerable significance and were the second and third largest cost items, respectively.

Per unit costs of operating machinery and equipment were also studied. The cost per hour of operating these machines varied from \$.20 to \$4.93 depending upon original cost, complexity of design, and the extent of use of the individual machine. Because of high rates of performance per acre, costs are considerably lower, ranging from \$.07 to \$1.97 per acre. The importance of these operating costs in cost of production determinations can readily be seen. In some instances the hourly cost of auxiliary machinery operations exceeds the cost of the power unit itself.

Performance and other related information on tractor equipment have also been studied. Performance rates on these machines greatly exceed those of comparable mule equipment, amounting to more than 40 acres per 10 hour day in the case of some machines. Most equipment is used below estimated potentials in terms of acres covered. This is an important consideration because machinery and equipment use is an especially influential factor affecting costs.

Obviously, when machinery is used at potential levels, fixed costs are distributed more widely, thereby resulting in lower per unit operating costs. In some instances actual use closely approaches potential use. In fact, in three cases annual use in terms of acreage covered actually exceeds the estimated potential use of the machine. This means that farmers, in their own judgement, are using these machines at levels too high to insure timely performance of operations. In many instances the timely performance of operations will offset a great deal of loss in efficiency and resulting increased cost caused by under utilization of machinery. Especially is this true with highly specialized equipment such as a cotton planter.

On the other hand, efficiency can be increased and costs lowered by doing custom work on other farms, especially where size of business is a limiting factor in machinery utilization.

The per unit costs of labor, power and equipment for a single cultivation operation with three levels of equipment have also been studied. These cost figures are illustrative of the increased importance of machinery and equipment costs accompanying the shift to tractor power. With the use of mule power equipment costs account for less than 9 percent of the total cost of these three production items. With the shift to four-row tractors equipment costs account for 24 percent of the total labor, power and equipment costs.

With the continuing shift to tractors as a source of farm power the cost of operating machinery and equipment is becoming increasingly important as a production cost item. In some cases the hourly cost of operation for auxiliary equipment exceeds that of the power unit. The per acre costs for this equipment, however, appear somewhat more favorable when considered in the light of performance rates possible with tractor machines. Most of the power equipment used in the Delta is operated much below capacity. Since operating costs of auxiliary equipment are becoming an increasingly larger part of total production costs they offer a fertile field for the attainment of increased efficiency and lowered costs.

## *Looking Ahead for Farming in 1951*

A DIGEST OF THE 1951 FARM OUTLOOK BULLETIN

by

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Our nation is at war. The national economy is a war economy and likely will be for several years at least. Many billions of dollars will be spent annually for war and defense. Greatly stepped-up war economy means more job opportunities, higher wages, larger gross incomes, increased demand for goods and services, shorter supplies of many civilian goods, and higher prices. More inflation is on the way despite all efforts to hold it down. Wage and price controls will come in 1951 but will not stop inflation. The National debt, the biggest factor influ-

encing inflation, will mount rapidly.

Living costs will continue to rise. Taxes will increase. Purchasing power of the dollar is less than half pre-war and will go much lower. Take-home pay of many families will buy less. Most salaried and other fixed-income workers will be especially hard hit. Demand for most farm products is expected to be higher. Prices will average well above 1950 levels for most products. Production costs will increase for all important items: machinery and equipment, motor supplies, building and fencing materials, farm labor, seeds, feeds, fertilizers, and insecticides. Gross farm incomes will be higher, due to increased total production (if weather is normal) and higher prices. Meat animals and cotton will be the source of most of the increase. Farm marketings may increase 10 percent or more over 1950. Net farm income may rise 15 percent...But higher living costs may reduce purchasing power of net income below 1950 level. Farm real estate values will continue to rise. They are now about 150 percent above pre-war 1935-39 average.

Feed supplies will be ample for all livestock. Local shortages of home-grown hay may appear with a hard winter and heavy damage to grazing crops. Feed prices will be higher. Supplies of fertilizers may be short of expected heavy demand. Biggest shortage will be superphosphate. Nitrogen and potash production will be expanded some, but may still be short of demand. Military requirements could cause serious nitrogen shortage for farm use. Fertilizer prices will be higher. Insecticides will be harder to get, especially DDT and BHC. Stocks of these are low and raw materials are short for making more. Aresenical poisons and fungicide supplies are expected to be about normal. Prices will be higher.

A short 1950 cotton crop, plus heavy demand at home and abroad has changed a prospective surplus into a probable shortage. Total 1950-51 U. S. supply is about 16.8 million bales. Domestic consumption is expected to run 10 to 10.5 million bales. Exports, even with export limitations, could run 5 million bales. The carry-over on next August 1 may be less than 2 million bales. The Secretary of Agriculture is asking for a 16 million bale crop in 1951. At average yields this would require 29 million acres, 11 million acres above 1950. There will be acreage allotments and marketing quotas in 1951. Price will be supported at 90 percent of parity. Best advice is to grow all the cotton possible on the best adapted cotton land, with available labor and other productive resources, without disturbing ones balanced system of farming.

Livestock and meat production is expected to increase in 1951, mostly pork and beef. Livestock numbers are increasing. Feed supplies are plentiful, except for local shortages of hay and winter grazing. Grazing crops have been seriously damaged by freezing. People are eating more meat despite higher prices. Prices for all classes of meat animals are expected to average higher. People will also eat more dairy products in 1951, especially fluid milk and cream, and at higher prices. Total production will be about the same with a shift to more fluid milk and cream consumption. Production costs will be higher. The present support price extends through March, 1951. A decline in egg production is expected from reduced hen numbers. Increased broiler production is in prospect. Egg and poultry meat prices may average a little higher than in 1950. There will be no price support for eggs in 1951.

Demand for most commercial truck crops will be stronger, both for fresh consumption and for canning and freezing. Total U. S. production may increase but probably will decrease in Mississippi. Slightly higher average prices are expected. Sweet potato acreage is expected about the same as in 1950. The demand should be strong at good prices for quality potatoes. No support prices are expected for the 1951 crop.

Demand for fats and oils will be strong, both domestic and foreign. Total U. S. production is a little smaller than last year. The soybean crop in 1950 was the largest on record. Another big acreage is expected in 1951, but it may be reduced some in the cotton belt. Prices are expected to average higher. Demand for forest products will continue strong, despite reduced building activity. Lumber supplies should be ample, especially lower grades. Prices probably will average higher, both to timber owners and to consumers.

## *The Farm Family Living Outlook for 1951*

NOTE: The following is an abstract from the Mississippi Agricultural Extension Service Bulletin, Looking Ahead in 1951 for Farming and Family Living.

Consumers will not be able to buy much in durable goods in 1951. They will have more to spend but less to spend it for. Taxes are already increased, credit is restricted, and defense production will take many resources used in houses, autos, household equipment and furnishings, and other durable goods. Shortages may occur and prices are already advancing. A sample census shows that half the farm families in the country have incomes less than \$2000; the South has less than \$1000, and Mississippi, with the lowest income group, has less than \$700 per capita income. 1951 may bring better prospects for many of these, as opportunities come for off-farm work. But even if these low income families do have more to spend next year, they may not be able to buy needed durable goods.

Housing has been gaining in the last few years and an all-time high was reached in the summer of 1950. This may add up to nearly 1 in every 10 for non-farm families, while the number for farm families is not known. The September starts exceed those of any September record though the more recent decline reflects existing and anticipated curbs in credit as well as future price increases. Under the Farm Housing Program, by June, 1950, loans had been made for 2,167 new farm houses with 1,445 of these in the southern area, and repairs and improvements were done for 2,404 farm families. A significant feature is that houses built under these provisions must meet certain minimum standards. In response to the Defense Act of 1950, further housing credit restrictions were announced in August, restricting all loans.

Electricity has been extended greatly, 86% of all farms being electrified by June, 1950, a 10% increase during the last 12 months. Eighteen states have 95% of their farms electrified and no state has more than one half of its farms lacking electricity. About 800,000 farms are still lacking in areas hard to reach but there are hundreds and thousands of un-electrified non-farm dwellings, schools, and churches, and other rural establishments not included in the survey. Prior to December, 1948, only 42% of the farms in the U. S.

had telephones. Public Law No. 423, October 28, 1949, empowered the R. E. A. to make self-liquidating loans for the extension of telephone service in rural areas and by July 31, 1950, allocations were made by which 12,500 subscribers are to have service for the first time. On August 12, 1950, the first loan contract under R. E. A. was signed in Virginia, while on July 31 there were 471 applications over 42 states which will enable thousands of rural homes to have telephones.

The supply situation of raw fibers is in general rather tight, with the lowest cotton crop since 1946 and the wool supply growing short as the large stockpile accumulated during the war has largely disappeared and current mill consumption is running ahead of current production. But there are no extreme scarcities. Shortages of apparel and household textiles may develop later, however, because of the supply situation of raw fibers, military needs, and increased demands due to increased incomes.

As for nutrition, results of a food conservation study made in the Northwest District in Mississippi in 1949 reported in Extension Circular 153, show that the "majority of 252 homemakers represented in this study did not can sufficient amounts of food for home use. 94 percent canned some foods. Approximately one-third canned sufficient vegetables. One-fifth canned enough fruits and vegetables." One-third of all the families did some freezing of foods for home use. The results of this study would indicate that over the state as a whole that there is a definite need for increased production and conservation of food.

Health and medical services are expanding each year in Mississippi by incorporating more individuals and groups of people to assume their responsibility in promoting better health and medical practices, habits, services, and facilities. Mississippi was the first state in the nation to use funds provided by the Hill-Burton Act. To date we have twenty-two new health centers and forty hospitals either completed or under construction with completion slated for 1951. This expansion of hospitals in the state is expected to bring adequate medical service within a fifteen mile radius of all the people in Mississippi. The need for medical and health personnel is increasing. In 1946 the Mississippi Legislature granted the State Medical Education Board funds to help boys and girls through medical school who would return to the state and practice in rural areas. Over two hundred scholarships have been granted and we are getting young doctors back to the state as a result. The 1950 Legislature passed the bill allocating funds for the concentration of a four-year medical school in Jackson. A teaching hospital is included in the proposed plan, being financed by Hinds County and Hill-Burton funds.

## *Southern Farm Family Food Consumption*

### ABSTRACT OF A STUDY BASED ON 1947 FOOD DATA FROM THE COTTON, TOBACCO, AND MOUNTAIN AREAS

Note: The following abstract is derived from Southern Cooperative Bulletin, No. 7, "An Analysis of 1947 Food Data," which is Part I of a long-range study, Family Food Consumption in Three Types of Farming Areas in the South. Dr. Dorothy Dickens, of Mississippi State, participated as senior author.

There is a need for current information on the diets of Southern farm families. It is important that the food consumption practices be known in order to help locate groups of families having inadequate diets and to make it possible to relate consumer education to the food habits of the families in the region.

This publication is the first in a series of family food consumption reports on a joint project of the Southern Region carried out by the Agricultural Experiment Stations of Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia with the cooperation of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Institute of Statistics, North Carolina State College. It is hoped that the findings in this study will be used as a basis in the development of educational programs which will lead to better diets and improved health for members of Southern farm families.

It was the purpose of this phase of the Family Food Consumption Study to study food expenses and kinds, amounts and values of home-produced food and related factors of families in three types of farming areas of the South. The data are based on information secured by personal interview with 308 families in the Cotton Area, 301 in the Tobacco Area, and 122 in the Mountain Area for 1947.

#### Description of Families Included

The families in the three areas had about the same average net income: \$1,429 in the Cotton Area; \$1,503 in the Tobacco Area; and \$1,527 in the Mountain Area. In the two specialized farm areas (the Cotton and Tobacco Areas) about three-fourths of the net income was derived from farm operation, while in the Mountain general farming Area about one-third was thus derived. Farm wages and salaries were a negligible source of income, except in the Cotton Area, where 16 percent of the net income was secured from this source. A little more than half the income of Mountain families was derived from wages, salaries, and profits from non-agricultural work. Eighteen percent of the net income of Tobacco farm families and 7 percent of that of Cotton farm families was thus obtained.

The predominant difference in families in the three areas was one of race-farm tenure. Three-fourths of the families in the Mountain Sample were white owner families, while half the families in the Cotton Sample were Negro sharecropper families. The race-tenure groups were more evenly distributed in the Tobacco Sample. Percentages of white families ranged from 35 percent in the Cotton Area to 99 percent (all except one family) in the Mountain Area. There was a substantial difference in incomes of the three tenure groups (owners, renters, sharecroppers) of white families in the three areas. White families in the Cotton Area in all three tenure groups averaged more income than Tobacco farm families, and Tobacco farm families averaged more than Mountain farm families. Negro owner and renter families in the Cotton Area had higher average incomes than those in the Tobacco Area, but Negro sharecroppers in the Cotton Area had lower average incomes than those in the Tobacco Area.

Average size of household was the same in all areas--6 members. Only families with both husband and wife and one or more children from 2-18 years of age were included in the study.

### 1947 Food Data

Average expenditures for food and value of home-produced food during 1947 were, for families in the Cotton Area, \$501 and \$353, respectively; for families in the Tobacco Area, \$452 and \$672; and for families in the Mountain Area, \$357 and \$777. An important factor responsible for differences in these averages was the race-tenure patterns in the three respective areas. Food supply of the six race-tenure groups varied greatly within areas and between areas. It was greatest for white owner families in the two specialized farm areas, with average expenditures for food of \$667 for those in the Cotton Area and of \$509 for those in the Tobacco Area, and with average value of home-produced food of \$807 for those in the Cotton Area and of \$820 for those in the Tobacco Area. It was least for Negro sharecropper families in these two areas whose expense for food averaged \$415 in the Cotton Area and \$365 in the Tobacco Area, and whose values of home-produced food averaged only \$228 in the Cotton Area and \$440 in the Tobacco Area.

A larger proportion of white renter and sharecropper families than of white owner families in the two specialized farm areas had expenses for food of \$400 and more. In the Mountain Area it was the reverse. Here more owners had food expenses of this amount. But food expenses were low for all three tenure groups in the Mountain Area. They averaged \$338 for owners, \$293 for renters, and \$249 for sharecroppers.

The percentage of white owner families with values of home-produced food of \$400 and over was high in all three areas--88 percent in the Cotton Area, 94 percent in the Tobacco Area, and 97 percent in the Mountain Area. There was less difference in the proportion of white renters and croppers and of white owners having these higher values in the Mountain than in the other two areas. Eighty-eight percent of the white sharecroppers in the Mountain Area, 40 percent in the Cotton Area, and 48 percent in the Tobacco Area had values for home-produced food of \$400 and over. Negro families had lower food expenses and values of home-produced food than did white families. Tobacco Area Negro families had lower food expenses and higher values of home-produced food than did Cotton Area Negro families.

Families in the three areas, and of different race and tenure groups within the area, varied greatly in use of specified home-produced foods and amounts of home-produced vegetables and fruits processed for family use. Consumption was usually highest in the Mountain Area and least in the Cotton Area. It was usually highest among white owner families, and least among Negro sharecropper families.

The family food supply of \$0-\$999 net income families in the three areas might be summarized as follows: for families in the Cotton Area, low expenditures for food and very low values of home-produced food; for families in the Mountain Area, very low expenditures for food and high values of home-produced food; for families in the Tobacco Area, an intermediate position in both expenditures and values between the Cotton and Mountain Areas--higher expenditures, but lower values than the Mountain Area; lower expenditures, but higher values than the Cotton Area. When a shift is made from the \$0-\$999 net income class to the \$2,000 and over net income class, the increase in proportion of families with expenses and values for food of \$400 or more is greatest in the Cotton Area, and least in the Mountain Area, and intermediate in the Tobacco Area.

At the lowest income level, Cotton farm families spent a greater proportion of their income for food than did families in the other two areas, and at the highest level they likewise spent a greater proportion for food. The differences in the three areas were not as pronounced at high as they were at low income levels.

As household size increased, expenses for purchased food and value of home-produced food used increased in all areas. Value of home-produced food increased relatively more with increasing family size in the Cotton and Tobacco Areas, and food expense relatively less than in the Mountain Area. Value of home-produced food was high for all household size classes in the Mountain Area.

### Improving the Food Supply

From this study, it would seem that there were families in the Cotton, Tobacco, and Mountain Areas whose total food supply was limited. One important factor was low net income, a factor of importance in all three areas, though more acute in the two specialized farm areas, and especially in the Cotton Area, where production of food for home consumption was less extensive than in the Mountain general farming area.

This study showed that white owner families in all three areas were usually fairly good producers of food for their families and that the white renter and cropper family on the Mountain farm followed very much the same pattern as the white owner. White and Negro sharecroppers in the Cotton and Tobacco Areas produced limited quantities of food on the farm for family consumption. Low food production was especially the practice of families on Delta Cotton farms. Many of these farms were large plantations worked by tractors. Flue-cured Tobacco farms were smaller and the family, if a sharecropper, was more often one of three or four families on the farm where the owner and tenants worked together, where mules were used and might be spared for making a garden.

With rapid increase in mechanization of Cotton farms, and with movement of houses from the fields to the road, the plantation type of production might well be applied to food production for family use. The family approach, it would seem, has not been any too successful, at least with the majority of sharecropper families. Perhaps it is the community (or plantation) approach which needs more emphasis.

There were families, especially in the Cotton and Tobacco Areas, who had had limited experience in producing food for their families and who had meager facilities for the same. Improving the food supply for these will involve, first of all, more information about food requirements and how to produce foods especially important to family health. Then it will involve assistance in securing facilities to produce these foods.

### Prices and Business Conditions

Economic conditions in Mississippi for December 1950 were excellent, according to surveys made by the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station and the Mississippi State College Business Research Station. The Mississippi Business Review (for January 1951), published by the Business Research Station, reports that Mississippi business in December was 5% above that of December 1949. The business index was, however, 23 points under the year's high of September 1950. At the same time the Review reports that farm wages as of January 1st were 10.9% higher than one year ago and 3.4% higher than at the end of September 1950. According to the Experiment Station's Farm Research (January 1951), Mississippi farm prices for December were the highest ever recorded, or 336% of the 1909-14 average. This was 2% higher than November and 44% higher than a year ago. At the same time, prices paid by farmers in December were also the highest on record being 1% higher than November 1950 and 8% over December 1949.

## ACTIVITIES

### ROUND TABLE HEARS T.V.A. ECONOMIST

The January meeting of the Social Science Round Table heard an address by Dr. Stephan A. Robock, chief of the Industrial Economics Branch of the T.V.A., on the Role of the Southeastern States in the National Economy. The visit of Dr. Robock to the campus was sponsored by the Department of Economics, and Dr. Robock's talk was delivered before a dinner meeting of the Round Table at Morris Lake on January 22nd. Accompanying Dr. Robock was Dr. Robert E. Lowry, of the Government Research division of the T.V.A. Dr. Robock stressed the steady gains of the Southern economy in the last decade but he pointed out that the region was still behind the national average in income. Stressing the great natural and human resources of the South, Dr. Robock called upon Southerners, especially during the present emergency, to exert every effort to take advantage of opportunities for economic development. In particular, Dr. Robock cautioned Southerners to take a long-range view of things. Wartime expansion for the sake of expansion is not desirable, he said, for nonpermanent economic activities often cause more grief than they are worth, as they bequeath to the region a vast horde of problems of postwar readjustment when the economic carpet is pulled out from under, such expansion. Dr. Robock suggested a number of activities in which the South should engage as a means of promoting sound economic growth, including studies of the labor potential, worker training programs, and close cooperation between government and industry.

### GERMAN AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST VISITS CAMPUS

Dr. Franz Gerl of the University of Bonn, Germany, spent the last two weeks of January at Mississippi State College studying research, extension service, and teaching in relation to rural sociology.

Dr. Gerl was formerly a graduate assistant at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, University of Bonn. He has also been editor of a magazine on agricultural policy published by the German Federation of Farmers. At present he is assistant professor at the Institute of Agricultural Policy, University of Bonn. He is currently on a four-month visit to this country under the sponsorship of the U. S. Department of State.

While on the campus Dr. Gerl conferred with Robert E. Galloway, social science analyst for the U. S. D. A. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, on health education; with Dr. O. T. Osgood, agricultural economist for the Experiment Station, on farm management; with Rudolph O. Monosmith, state 4-H Club leader, on 4-H Clubs; with Professor Lee B. Gaither, of the resource-use education department, and Professor Morris W. Rivers, of the division of sociology and rural life, on schools; with Chester Wells and E. E. Kern, of the Agricultural economics department, on marketing problems; with Dr. Harald A. Pedersen of the division of sociology and rural life, on farm mechanization; and with Dr. Roscoe J. Saville, head of the agricultural economics department, Dr. Dorothy Dickins, head of the home economics department of the Experiment Station, and Dr. Harold Kaufman, head of the division of sociology and rural life. Dr. Kaufman also arranged Dr. Gerl's program of activities on the campus. Dr. Gerl also went on several off-campus tours, including a visit with Prof. Rivers to Lee County to observe community organizations; visits with Prof. Martindale, dairy marketing specialist, to the Cooperative Creamery, Bordens, and other dairy processing plants in Oktibbeha County; and a tour with Charles L. Cary, marketing specialist, to inspect grain and other marketing facilities and plantations in the Delta.

When interviewed on the problems of contemporary Germany, Dr. Gerl asserted that Jingoism is not rampant in Germany today. "Behind the seeming nationalism of Western Germany are real economic needs," Dr. Gerl said. "The Germans require their political leaders to follow a reasonable plan for improving economic conditions." He pointed out that Western Germany finds itself in a very difficult economic situation. Where 38 million people lived before World War II, 50 million now live. The increase is due to displaced persons from the parts of eastern Germany and Poland seized by Russia and her satellites, Poland and East Germany. Not only has the population of Western Germany been greatly increased, but also the food supply has been greatly reduced," he said. "Western Germany formerly received a large food surplus from eastern Germany. But now, the communists have broken up the large farms of eastern Germany, and agricultural production there is probably not more than 80 per cent of the pre-war level." In addition, he explained, East Germany has had its population increased from 13 million before the war to 18 million now by the influx of displaced persons from the east. Government restrictions and the quota system further hamper trade between West and East Germany. "In 1950, agricultural production in Western Germany had reached pre-war levels, but still this over-populated area needed to import 45 per cent of its food," he continued. "How are these imports to be paid for? Western Germany needs more dollars to pay for imports. In order to do this, it needs to improve or increase its exports."

Dr. Gerl explained that it is very difficult for Western Germany to improve or to increase its exports because it runs into competition with U. S. and Britain for markets. German technology during the past few years has not kept abreast of the latest developments in the U. S., and this makes competition difficult. "During 1950, Western Germany needed to realize three billion dollars from exports in order to be able to pay for the three billion dollars worth of imports needed," Dr. Gerl said. "Actually, it received about one and a half billion dollars for its exports, and imported two and a half billion dollars worth of goods. The billion dollar difference was paid for by ECA aid from the U. S." Dr. Gerl agreed that the rearmament of Europe may help to provide markets for the products of Germany's heavy industries, but he said that when he left Germany to come to this country three months ago, the German people were not enthusiastic about re-arming because they fear that Russia may march in before Western Europe can arm to defend itself, and that an attempt to re-arm Germany may provoke such a move. Besides, they are afraid that whatever may be done within the next two years may prove to be too little and too late. Also they are constantly reminded of the evils of war with hard times and destroyed cities on every hand. Moreover, the material and money required for re-arming are desperately needed for rebuilding their homes and factories.

#### COMMUNITY CONFERENCE HERE

The first Mississippi Conference on Community Development, held on the campus on February 9, under the sponsorship of the Mississippi State College Committee on Community Development, was highly successful. The sessions were attended by approximately 136 persons representing 27 public or private agencies interested in community problems. The Conference delegates represented at least 25 Mississippi counties.

Prominent speakers on the all-day program included Rev. J. A. Lindsey of Florence, President Fred T. Mitchell of State College, Dr. E. J. Niederfrank of Washington, George McLean of Tupelo, George T. Sargent of Auburn, Mrs. J. A. Randle of Starkville, Walter Spiva of Newton, Frank L. Meahan of St. Louis, Boswell Stevens of Macon, B. F. Smith of Stoneville, Dr. Frank Alexander of Knoxville, J. Oliver Emerich of McComb, William E. Barksdale, L. O. Bradshaw, Dr. P. L. Rainwater, Charlie McNeil, Dr. D. V. Galloway, W. F. Bond, Richard C. Williams, and Dr. Felix Underwood of Jackson.

"Strong communities are vital to our democratic way of life," declared Dr. Harold Kaufman, chairman of the State College Committee on Community Development, in opening the conference. Dr. Kaufman pointed out that the national trend towards centralization means that decisions that affect every-day life are made in far-away places, and that to counterbalance this influence strong community organizations are needed. "We must get together and have the opportunity to learn and understand each other's work and point of view," Dr. Kaufman said. "The initiative for community development rests largely with the local people themselves, and agencies should serve chiefly as resources. We must continue to work together in planning for the future."

"The South is making more rapid progress in community organization and development than any other region in the United States," declared Dr. E. J. Niederfrank, Extension Rural Sociologist, USDA, Washington, D. C. "The idea of community organization and development is spreading rapidly throughout the South," he said. "Hundreds of communities in the South have their own organizations to which all the people of the locality belong and through which they carry on projects for community betterment." Dr. Niederfrank congratulated Mississippi for taking leadership in community development. He said that many communities have developed local health centers, recreational facilities, and improved church grounds and buildings. They have promoted conservation on local farms and home improvements. "People live mostly in homes and communities, and they like to have them both good places to live," he observed. "Good living conditions result from community action and community services, as well as from farm and home technology." Dr. Niederfrank emphasized the timeliness of a study of community organization and development, because of the rapid changes occurring in farming methods, school consolidation, better roads, and increasing industrialization. "Now is the time to set patterns of sound development, before it is too late," he said. "Excellent patterns of community development are to be found in Mississippi communities such as Tupelo, McComb, Poplarville, and many others. Here churches, civic organizations, state welfare agencies, and government agricultural services all work together to improve health, farming, and homemaking."

George McLean, editor of the Tupelo Journal, stressed the importance of helping people to help themselves. He told how people can be motivated by a desire to improve their own communities, and he advocated paid workers to engineer community projects to success. He told how other community leaders had come to Tupelo to study their community development, and how they had returned to their own towns and started similar programs there. He gave two examples of community projects (1) farmers uniting to transform a farm, and (2) service clubs adopting a community and doing something to help. The Tupelo editor, who was frequently applauded by the conference audience, said that the farmers of the Tupelo community were too busy improving their lot to sit around the country store stove and cuss the weather and their bad luck. "There is no limit to what Mississippians can do if they pull together," he concluded.

George T. Sargent, community development specialist for the Alabama Extension Service, advised community workers to set goals that are not too high for success. He said that once the people of a community have become aware of the need of community improvement, the next step is to find those who will work for the accomplishment of community goals.

In the afternoon smaller groups met separately and designated the following spokesman to discuss the following topics: health and welfare administration, Mary Mahon, Jackson; hospital and medical care, John W. Gill, Vicksburg; research sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council, Dr. P. L. Rainwater, Jackson; Christian fellowship, Rev. Kenneth Hall, Kosciusko; chambers of commerce, Ray Stennet, Kosciusko; Home Demonstration Council activities, Mrs. J. A. Randle, Starkville; education, Miss Helen Turner, Columbus; and community leadership, Truman Brooks, Tupelo. Later in the afternoon these spokesmen made a report to the entire conference, and these reports will be mimeographed and mailed to those who attended the conference. Following these reports, the conference heard a discussion of community development by representatives of the Mississippi Power and Light Company, the National Council for Community Improvement, the Farm Bureau Federation, the USDA, the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, TVA, Mississippi Hospital Commission, Mississippi Hospital and Medical Services, State Board of Health, and Mississippi Department of Public Welfare.

Friday evening the conference joined with the Social Science Round Table for a dinner meeting at Morris Lake. J. Oliver Emerich, editor-publisher of the McComb Enterprise Journal, and George T. Sargent, community development specialist for the Alabama Extension Service, were the featured speakers.

#### STATE RESEARCH CLEARING HOUSE ESTABLISHED

At a special meeting of research leaders of the state held at the Heidelberg Hotel in Jackson on January 23 under the sponsorship of the Mississippi Economic Council, a Mississippi Research Clearing House was established, with Dean R. C. Weems, Jr. as chairman of its executive committee. Other members of the committee are Charles E. Elkins, head of Field Studies and Research at Mississippi Southern; R. B. Highsaw, director of the Bureau of Public Administration at the University; W.R. Hough, director of research and statistics, Mississippi Tax Commission, P. L. Rainwater, chief of research, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, and S.R. Jeffers, of the Mississippi Economic Council. Mr. Jeffers will serve as secretary of the committee. Mr. Rex I. Brown, Chairman of the Economic Council's Research Advisory Committee presided at the organizational meeting of the Clearing House, but pointed out that the role of the Council was simply to assist in the establishment of the Clearing House, as one of the research agencies concerned; and he stressed the fact that the new organization should be considered as an independent body. Among those representing Mississippi State College at the meeting were: Dean R. C. Weems, Dr. Harold Flinsch, Dr. Clay Lyle, and Dr. J. E. Bettersworth.

In a meeting of the executive committee immediately after the organizational session, it was decided that a questionnaire should be submitted to all agencies in the state engaged in research activity and that on the basis of this survey a report should be made available to all members of the Clearing House listing research projects completed or in progress. Semi-annual supplementary reports would likewise be issued. The first questionnaire is already in the mails, and Mr. Jeffers, the secretary, hopes to have a report ready shortly.

## FARM AND HOME WEEK PLANS

The 1951 Farm and Home Week will be held July 16 to 20 at Mississippi State College. The dates for the annual program were chosen by a steering committee appointed by Dr. Fred T. Mitchell, president of the college. Members of the committee are Dr. Frank J. Welch, chairman, Dean B. P. Brooks, Dean Herbert Dremmon, Dean Harold Flinsch, Dean Clay Lyle, Miss May Cresswell, L. H. Gooch, M. S. Shaw, L. F. Mallory, Marvin Osborn, Jr., Dean Emeritus I. D. Sessums, Henry T. Ware, and Dean R. C. Weems. Details of the program will be announced later.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH SEMINAR

The first meeting of the campus-wide Social Science Research Seminar, designed to explore research possibilities in the social science field, was held on February 14th in the northeast seminar room on the basement floor of the library. The proceedings of that meeting are published elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin. Details as to the March meeting are likewise given. All persons on the campus interested in social science research are urged to attend these sessions.

## MEMPHIS CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mississippi State socialist scientists were well represented at the annual convocation of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers in Memphis on February 5-7.

At the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology section meeting, of which Dr. Harold Kaufman was chairman, sessions were held on Past, Present, and Future Research Problems, the Presentation of Agricultural Policy Information to Southern People, and Dairying in a Changing Agriculture. Miss Ruth Etheridge, of the Extension department, participated in the discussion of policy information. Prof. D. W. Rivers was a member of a panel of Home Economists and Rural Sociologists which was concerned with "Table Talk- A Demonstration in Group Dynamics." On the second day there was a workshop on population research for which session Dr. Harold A. Pedersen prepared a paper. On February 5-6 there was a Workshop on Community Development in the South. Prof. Dorris Rivers and Major H. S. Johnson made preconference reports for this session. At the Home Economics section Dr. Dorothy Dickens, who was also chairman, read a paper entitled, "Home Economists on the March." Participating in the Marketing Section meetings were Prof. W. E. Christian, who discussed Livestock Marketing in Mississippi, and Prof. W. A. Faught, who discussed Charges and Services in Cotton Marketing. Prof. O. T. Osgood spoke before a joint session of the agronomy and soil sections, using as his subject, "The Land-Use Pattern Scale as a Guide to Land Classification Techniques." Prof. H. P. Todd also read a paper to this group on "Industrial Development in the South in Relation to its Agriculture."

## PUBLICATIONS

**THE LUSIGNANS:** Copies of Dr. Harold S. Snellgrove's new book, The Lusignans in England, 1247-1258, have arrived. The book is published by the University of New Mexico Press as No. 2 in its series of publications in history. The Lusignans were the French-born half brothers of the English king, Henry III. Their mother was the famous Isabella of Angouleme, who has been variously described as a Jezebel or as a Helen, both of which names refer to her beauty as well as her cunning. Isabella's sons came to England to live off their half-brother, the king; and the British barons, who resented these "foreigners," made life quite miserable for these hated Frenchmen. Actually, the half-brothers asked for trouble by flaunting British law and custom. "We care nothing for the law of the land," they announced. "What are the ordinances or customs to us?" One of the most interesting aspects of Dr. Snellgrove's study of the Lusignans is its revelation of personal traits and national prejudices that seem almost modern in character. Dr. Snellgrove's study of the Lusignans was begun at the University of New Mexico in connection with his doctoral dissertation. Since coming to Mississippi State College in 1947, Snellgrove has worked on a final revision of the work, and the result is the book just published. While at State College Dr. Snellgrove has greatly developed the field of Medieval studies, and Mississippi State College is now recognized as one of the strong centers of graduate work in medieval history in the South.

**STATISTICAL ABSTRACT:** A Statistical Abstract of Mississippi, the first of an annual series, has just been published by the Business Research Station at Mississippi State College. The preparation of the material for publication in this bulletin was under the supervision of James W. Reddoch, acting instructor in business administration at the college last year. The background and supervisory work was conducted by Professor J. J. MacAllister, associate director of the Business Research Station and editor of the monthly Mississippi Business Review, and by Professors Benjamin Wofford and Thomas A. Kelly. "This Statistical Abstract should be of considerable value to persons engaged in long-range economic thinking on the problem of the industrial and economic development of Mississippi," commented Robert C. Weems, Jr., dean of the School of Business and Industry here, and director of the Business Research Station. "One of the greatest needs of the State of Mississippi has been that of a brief, accurate, organized, usable body of informational materials concerning the status and trend of the state's economic activity and resources," Dean Weems stated, in a foreword to the abstract. The School of Business and Industry, through its Business Research Station, has been engaged, since July 1939, in the gathering and assembling of data for the volume, the dean continued. This information has been used in the classroom, in answering inquiries, and in estimating Mississippi business trends for publication in the monthly Mississippi Business Review. The information in the Statistical Abstract is presented in tabular form under ten major topics: (1) Population, Area, and Climate of Mississippi; (2) Vital Statistics, Accidents and Safety, Crime and Criminals; (3) Employment and Payrolls, Social Security; (4) Education; (5) State and Local Government Finance and Veterans' Affairs; (6) Banking and Finance; (7) Incomes and Expenditures, Prices; (8) Communication, Power and Transportation; (9) Agriculture, Forest Products, Fisheries; and (10) Manufacturing, Distribution, Mining, and Construction.

**WILDLIFE STUDY:** Our Friends of the Forest, A Unit for the First Grade, is the subject of a mimeographed

bulletin written by Martha Burgoyne and published by the Mississippi State Resource-Education department. Miss Burgoyne is a senior in the school of education. This publication is the first in a series to be known as the "Mississippi Resources Library," which is edited by Professor Lee B. Gaither, head of the Resource-Use Education department.

#### Experiment Station Bulletins

Family Food Consumption in Three Types of Farming Areas in the South, An Analysis of 1947 Food Data is the title of a cooperative bulletin recently published. Dr. Dorothy Dickens is senior author. A summary of this study appears in this issue of the Social Science Bulletin.

Health Practices of Rural People in Lee County, by Robert E. Galloway and Harold F. Kaufman, appeared in December, 1950 under the imprint of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, as number one in its Sociology and Rural Life Series.

Production Practices for Selected Farm Crops in Mississippi, 1947, by R. J. Saville and J. P. Gaines, was recently published as a mimeographed bulletin (MR-6) from the Mississippi Experiment Station.

A study of income produced by hens on dairy and cotton farms, conducted by A. D. Seale, Jr., of the Agricultural economics department, appeared in the February issue of Mississippi Farm Research.

#### RESEARCH

The health study of Choctaw, Bolivar, Forrest, and Lee counties, which is being done by the division of Sociology and Rural Life as an experiment station-extension cooperative project, is being continued. Tabulation of data on Bolivar and Forrest counties is in process. As reported elsewhere, the report on Lee county has just been issued. During the current semester Professor Marion Loftin is joining Professors Kaufman and Galloway on this project.

John Roberson, a major in agricultural economics and history, is at work on a study of the history of the cooperative movements in Mississippi.

James H. McLendon, assistant professor of history, is engaged in a study of the attacks on external lumber capitalism in Mississippi and its relationship to the political rise of the common man after 1900. Dr. McLendon is also engaged in a survey of newspaper source materials on Mississippi history for the purpose of assembling them for microfilming by the Mississippi State College Library.

Harold S. Snellgrove, of the history and government department, is engaged in research on the French Layer Houses of the Middle Ages.

Professors Harold Kaufman and Dorris Rivers, of the division of sociology and rural life, are preparing a study of "Organizations Serving Mississippi Farm People." Professor Rivers is at present conducting an evaluation of the Tupelo Community program.

Chester Wells, of the agricultural economics department, is in the process of tabulating, analyzing, and preparing the manuscript for a study of local cotton markets in the Mississippi Delta, entitled, "Marketing Channels, Services, and Charges of Local Buyers."

The division of sociology and rural life has initiated a study of farm labor and farm labor adjustments in the Delta. Bolivar County has been selected as the survey area, and intensive study of farm organization and the extent of mechanization will be made on a sample of 175 farms in the county. An analysis of the labor force, their skills and mobility, began in February. The study was designed originally to determine the relationship between the progress of mechanization and adjustment in farm labor in the area. With the proposed expansion of the cotton production program and the accelerated defense production program in industrial areas making demands on labor, the agricultural labor situation in the Delta will, in all probability, become even more critical, according to Dr. Harald A. Pedersen, who is project leader.

#### INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Professors T. A. Kelly, Dorris Rivers, and Benjamin Wofford have been invited to speak at a conference of Mississippi Employment Security Workers at Jackson on March 30-31. Dr. P. L. Rainwater, chief of Research and Information, is in charge of the program.

Ruth Ethridge, of the Agricultural Extension Service will participate in a project sponsored by the Women's Bureau and the Home Demonstration Section of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, whereby a group of six Japanese women will be brought to this country for orientation in American community life during a visit of three months.

Miss Mary Walker Mahon, child welfare supervisor for the State Department of Public Welfare, recently addressed the sociology classes of Dr. W. P. Carter and interviewed 15 students interested in careers as social service workers.

Professor W. W. Littlejohn, head of the accounting department, spoke in December to the Mississippi State College student chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Management on the much disputed Excess Profits Tax.

Lee B. Gaither, head of the resource-use education department, participated in the Workshop on Community Development in the South on February 9 and attended the annual convention of Southern Agricultural Workers

in Memphis, February 5-6.

Dr. John K. Bettersworth attended the organizational meeting of the Mississippi Research Clearing House in Jackson on January 23. Dr. Bettersworth spoke before the West Point Public Affairs Forum on January 19, using as his subject, "The United States and the World."

Miss Olive Sheets and Miss Sarah Sherrill, of the home economics department, attended the Southern Agricultural Workers meeting in Memphis on February 5-7. Mrs. Anna P. Felder, Extension nutritionist, Miss Mary Agnes Gordon, marketing and crafts specialist, and Miss Earle Gaddis, special assistant to the State Home Demonstration Agent, also attended the meeting.

The entire staff of the division of sociology and rural life attended the state sociology meeting at Millsaps on January 16.

Dr. H. S. Snellgrove will be visiting professor of history at the University of New Mexico during the coming summer. Dr. Snellgrove plans to attend the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America during the Easter vacation.

Five faculty members of the economics, accounting, and business administration departments attended professional meetings in Chicago December 27-30, the annual conventions of the American Economics Association, the Econometric Society, the American Statistical Association, and the American Marketing Association. They were B. M. Wofford, Roy A. Klages, C. H. Farnsworth, Norman Weir, and Tom A. Kelly.

Dean Herbert Drennon has been invited to meet with the Executive Committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities at the 1951 meeting of this organization, as a representative of the Council on Graduate Work. Last year Dr. Drennon was chairman of the council, and this year he is a member of the council's executive committee, as well as an ex-officio member of the association's executive committee.

Dr. Dorothy Dickens, head of the Mississippi Experiment Station home economics department, has been appointed to a four-year term on the Land-Grant College Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy.

Dr. Frank J. Welch, dean of the School of Agriculture, Mississippi State College, and director of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, has been selected as one of the principal speakers for the 1951 Farm and Home Convention at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Welch will speak January 30, on "Southern Agriculture and National Security." Dr. Welch was also recently appointed to the Land-Grant Association Advisory Subcommittee on Marketing Research.

Dean B. P. Brooks, of the Education School, led a delegation from Mississippi State to a regional meeting of the National Commission on Teacher Education and Professional Standards in Jackson on January 12 and 13. Accompanying Dean Brooks were Dr. J. D. Falls, head of the adult education department; Professor V. S. Mann, acting head of the department of guidance education; Robert A. Weber, assistant professor of adult education; Robert P. White, associate professor of adult education; and Lee E. Gaither, acting head of the resource-use education department.

Professor Lee E. Gaither of the resource-use education department conducted a student inspection tour of lands and the plant of the Flintkate Company in Meridian, January 10.

Professor V. G. Martin, head of the agricultural education department, has been awarded a life membership in the American Vocational Association. The vocational agriculture teachers of Mississippi, many of them former students of Professor Martin, contributed the hundred dollars for his life membership as a token of their appreciation and respect.

Professors Robert Galloway and Marion Loftin, of the division of sociology and rural life, attended a meeting of the Rural Health Conference of the American Medical Association, at Memphis, February 23-24.

Dr. R. J. Saville, Mr. W. A. Faught, and Mr. Chester Wells, of the agricultural economics department, attended a meeting of the Regional Cotton Marketing Technical Committee in Memphis on February 7-8. Dr. Saville is chairman of this group, and Mr. Faught is regional project leader. At the meeting the status of current projects was reviewed and plans for 1951-52 were made.

Three graduate students in agricultural economics completed their work in January: Don R. Bryan, Marshall S. Dickerson, and Ralph W. Shaw. Mr. Bryan is remaining on the staff here. Mr. Dickerson has taken a position with the Livestock Branch of the P. & M.A. in Washington. Mr. Shaw has been employed at Memphis by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in its Mortgage Loan Division.

Warren B. Scott attended the Southern College Personnel Association meeting at Vanderbilt last November. He has been invited to participate in the consideration of "Problems of Administering Student Personnel Services" at the Conference on Higher Education to be held April 2-4 in Chicago.

Donald Thompson, director of libraries, participated in a survey last fall of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library in Washington, and together with four other librarians, presented a report at the meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago on February 2nd. In January, Mr. Thompson attended a meeting of the executive board of the Southeastern Library Association at Knoxville. Mr. Thompson was elected president of the Mississippi Library Association at its Biloxi meeting last fall. On January 15 Mr. Thompson addressed the college Y.M.C.A. faculty luncheon on the facilities of the State College Library.

## The Social Science Bulletin

Box 148, State College, Miss.

Published by the Social Science Research Center of Mississippi State College. John K. Bettersworth, Chairman and Editor. All communications should be addressed to Box 148, State College. Office: Lee Hall, Room 206. Telephone: Starkville 900, Ex. 264. News items and other contributions are solicited.

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 3

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1951

### *The Social Science Research Center*

John K. Bettersworth, Chairman

Harold F. Kaufman, Associate Chairman

The purpose of the Social Science Research Center is to stimulate coordination and cooperation among the social sciences at Mississippi State College and to encourage research in undeveloped areas of the social science field. The Center publishes Social Science Studies and The Social Science Bulletin. It also sponsors the Social Science Round Table, a cooperative activity in which social scientists and persons in related fields at Mississippi State College and neighboring institutions participate.

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From:  
Social Science Bulletin  
Box 148, State College, Miss.